

Price: Jordan 200 fls

The Regent commended the efforts of all those involved in teaching and in accomplishing the first stage of the educational development plan saying that there is a long way to go now that the basic infrastructure has been installed.



MINISTER OPENS MOTOR SHOW: Deputising for His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Minister of Culture Qasem Abu Ahn Tuesday inspects a car at the Amman International Motor Show. Taking part in the six-day show are 35 Jordanian companies representing car manufacturers (Petra photo)

UNRWA commissioner presents report on agency's future budgets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Peter Hansen Tuesday presented a draft report on the agency's performance and its estimated fiscal budgets for 1998 and 1999 to the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

The draft report, which is to be reviewed by the commission, will later be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York next month.

Mr. Hansen's estimated budget for UNRWA in 1998 is \$314 million, rising to \$320 million in 1999. The 1997 budget was put at \$352 million.

UNRWA's humanitarian services to Palestinian refugees cannot continue without further contributions from the donor nations to cover the expected deficits in the next two years, according to Mr. Hansen.

A deficit in the agency's 1997 budget forced Mr. Hansen last month to announce austerity measures, including freezing appointments of teachers, charging refugee students school fees, and cancelling hospitalisation programmes.

However, following a meeting in Amman by donor nations, Mr. Hansen cancelled some of the measures after securing more than \$19 million.

Other measures are still in force, including a 15 per cent reduction in international staff and the suspension in the recruitment of additional teachers.

Addressing the commission's meeting Tuesday was Ziyad Majali, head of Jordanian representation office in Gaza, who outlined Jordan's services for the refugees.

Despite its meagre resources, Jordan has been spending around \$350 million annually in the form of services for the refugees living in camps in the Kingdom, which hosts the majority of the Palestinian refugees, he stated.

Jordan has been spending on roads, water supplies, electricity, and sewage facilities, as well as providing health, educational, cultural, and economic services to the refugees, he said.

Part of the government's social safety package, totalling nearly JD420 million, will be used to finance infrastructure projects in the refugee camps, according to Mr. Majali.

He warned that reduced UNRWA services to the refugees due to a decline in donations would have adverse consequences, adding that the refugees reject UNRWA's moves to impose austerity measures.

The meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the U.S., Japan, France, Britain, Belgium, Turkey, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Candidates offered ad time on television, radio

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Radio and Television Corporation has started presenting promotional messages on the radio and television by candidates running in the campaign for the general elections.

A corporation statement said each candidate is allowed a maximum of one minute per day, and their messages should be handwritten and sent to the corporation, where they will be recorded.

The corporation will offer each candidate an introductory 15-second spot, free of charge, for his or her message to be broadcast on television between 3:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m., and the recording of the messages will also be done free of charge, according to the statement.

The announcement said television messages will be charged after the first 15 seconds according to the following rates:

Channel One: 2:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. at JD10 per second, 6:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at JD15 per second, and 8:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at JD25 per second.

By radio the messages will be charged as follows:

6:55 a.m.-7:00 a.m. and 8:05 a.m.-8:10 a.m. at JD25 per second, 12:05 p.m.-12:10 p.m., 1:40 p.m.-1:45 p.m., and 5:55 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at JD10 per second, and 3:35 p.m.-3:40 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.-9:25 p.m. at JD5 per second.

Candidates will also have to pay the sales tax charge in each category.

Regent attends Cabinet session, stresses need for comprehensive planning strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and chaired part of the regular Cabinet session.

Addressing the session, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of comprehensive regional planning when preparing the next five-year national development plan.

The plan will be presented by the end of this month before the Crown Prince.

After the session, Minister of Public Works and Housing and Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi said the Cabinet discussed several important issues and adopted a number of decisions.

The Cabinet confirmed decisions appointing Walid Asfour Chairman of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Taher Hikmat, Adel Qudrah, and the deputy governor of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) as new RJ board members.

They also appointed Ahmad Abdul Fattah as deputy governor of CBJ and accepted the resignation of Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Fayez Khasawneh, effective Nov. 1.

The session approved a visit next month by Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi to Saudi Arabia in response to an official invitation.

The Cabinet endorsed an agreement on dual taxation concluded in September between the Jordanian and Algerian governments.

They also agreed to the exchange of memoranda between Jordan and Germany on financial allocations for experts and studies for projects that will be implemented within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and authorised Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Humeidi to sign it on behalf of Jordan.

Other actions taken by the Cabinet included the endorsement of the minutes of the Higher Stamps Committee, which is in charge of issuing commemorative stamps in 1998, and the approval of a recommendation to include the Export Promotion Corporation staff as beneficiaries of the Civil Servants Consumer Corporation services.

Abdul Latif Mira' was appointed as a member of the Orphans Fund Board of Directors for a four-year term, effective Oct. 1, and the status of Fares Saraikeh as the private sector representative in the fund was renewed for a four-year term, also effective Oct. 1.

The Cabinet approved the formation of a Palestinian Affairs Department delegation to attend the meetings of the committee in charge of educational programmes for Arab students under occupation, which will be held in Cairo on Nov. 7.

The Cabinet listened to a briefing by Dr. Kurdi on his visit to Yugoslavia last week and the outcome of his meetings with Yugoslav officials.

Dr. Kurdi said two specialised Yugoslav medical companies will provide Jordan with vaccines and sera free of charge, and will partially finance a portion of the vaccines that will be used in the nationwide polio vaccination campaign to be launched in March.

The Cabinet also listened to a briefing by Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh on his participation in a labour conference recently held in Belgium.

March stressing smoking dangers to be held Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anti-Smoking and Anti-Cancer Societies Friday will hold a sponsored march in Amman designed to raise public awareness on the dangers of smoking.

The march, which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, will begin at the main gate of Sports City, proceed toward the University of Jordan, and return to Sports City, according to the organisers.

Sami Khatib, vice chairman of the Anti-Cancer Society, told a press conference that it has been established that 33 per cent of cancer cases are caused by smoking, which is also responsible for 90 per cent of lung cancer and 80 per cent of heart disease cases.

Mohammad Shreim, chairman of the Anti-Smoking Society, said the proceeds of the march will benefit poor cancer patients who are unable to pay for the cost of their treatment.

The two doctors called for intensive efforts by public and private institutions to implement anti-smoking campaigns through pamphlets and brochures, lectures, documentaries, and seminars.

They underlined the importance of the role that the media can play to combat smoking which, they said, the World Health Organisation considers an addiction rather than a bad habit.

They noted that the cost of treatment to help smokers quit is much less than the cost of dealing with the diseases resulting from smoking.

A recent report by Al Amal Cancer Centre said 3,000 to 4,000 cancer patients are diagnosed annually in Jordan.

The Anti-Cancer Society is a non-governmental organisation comprising voluntary groups that have the goal of helping Jordanians understand and avoid habits that cause cancer.

The Anti-Smoking Society, which was established in 1981, has been launching annual campaigns against smoking and spreading awareness on the dangers of smoking to public health.

Intra-tribal rivalry, IAF boycott seen as factors in Fifth District

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Intra-tribal rivalry in Amman's Fifth District coupled with the absence of the Islamist opposition are dominating the campaign 20 days before elections for the 13th Parliament.

"The Fifth District is the most unsettled constituency. It is the one most dominated by tribalism, and the district in which tribes will be the decisive factor in the end," said Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, an Islamist in the Islamic Action Front (IAF) election campaign of 1993.

Among 39 candidates contesting the five Muslim seats, including one Circassian-Chechan seat, four major tribes fielded 13 candidates. They are Ahmad Owaidi, Mohammad Hussein, and Mohammad Youssef from the Abadi tribe, Ahmad Odeh, Mohammad Youssef, Mohammad Abdul Hadi, and Mufdi Awwad of the Ajarmeh, Ata Fadel, Mohammad Darweesh, and Youssef Abdul Hafeth of the Shawwan, and Khalil, Mouloud, and Munir Sobar who all belong to the Circassian clan, the Sobar.

Due to the boycott of the elections by the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the IAF, along with nine political parties, the Professional Associations Union, and independent personalities, the absence of powerful political figures is being strongly felt.

In the previous elections, Hammam Said of the IAF won a seat in the 12th Parliament with the highest number of votes (3,690).

"Had the Islamists joined the race, many of the present candidates would not have run because they would have had a lesser chance of winning. This opened the door for more candidates who saw that there are more seats available for them now," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said.

"Due to the absence of Islamists and other parties, there is no flavour to elections this year," Abdul Karim Mousa, a bookshop owner in Marj Al Hamam, said.

For the same reasons, many citizens say they will refrain from voting in the upcoming elections.

In this district, which covers Shafa Badran, Abu Nusir, Jubatha, Sweileh, Ta' Al Ali, Um Sumak, Khilda, Biyadi Wadi Seer, and Naour and where a total of 13,625 persons registered, three women, Hiam Kalimat Toghot, Laila Faisal Kalajri, and Fardous Masri, are running.

Their chances of winning are not great, according to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh.

"With all my respect to women, I do not think they have a chance of winning, especially in the Fifth District, which is characterised by bedouinism and tribalism," he said.

Laila Faisal Kalajri, Hiam Kalimat Toghot, and Mahmoud Bino, along with the three Sobars, are competing for the Circassian-Chechan seat.

Munir Sobar, a member of the 12th Parliament and former minister of supply in the Kabarti government, is one of two former deputies running in this constituency, the other being Ahmad Owaidi Abbadi.

Mr. Sobar's decision to run for the elections is eliciting different responses from the community.

"I think Munir Sobar will win. He has offered a lot to the people. His father served so many people and was the mayor of Biyadi Wadi Seer for a long time, and is highly respected among Circassians," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said.

Biyadi Wadi Seer is originally a Circassian town.

Mr. Mousa disagrees. "[Munir Sobar] will fail. He was the minister of supply in the 1996 Kabarti government that lifted bread subsidies," Mr. Mousa said.

The candidacies of Saoud Zubeidi, Jamal Nsour, and Dahoud Daradkeh were rejected Monday for failure to meet the requirements stipulated by the elections law. These candidates, however, can still appear before the Court of First Instance.

Other candidates include Mohammad Abu Hudeib, Mohammad Mustafa Adwan, Abdul Hameed Afeshat, Asaf Asaf, Lutfi Deirbani, Mohammad Dissi, Saoud Khabaiba, Mohammad Khammesh, Khamis Lawzi, Abdul Hameed Manaseer, Bassem Muheirat, Ahmad Nahar, Mohammad Awwad Nuaimat, Mohammad Oneizat, Mohammad Qura'an, Zeid Sharaia, Abjullah Sleihat, Samir Sukkar, and Mohammad Thawabeh.

Southern district candidates focus on 'common concerns' of people, pledge to fight poverty

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Candidates in the Kingdom's southern districts, Karak, Tafleh, and Ma'an, are echoing the common concerns of the people, pledging increased efforts for the alleviation of unemployment and poverty, as well as the allocation of more seats in Jordanian universities.

Southern candidates, who are largely dependent on their tribal voters to carry them to the 13th Parliament, put up banners calling for justice in the distribution of services, honesty in fulfilling the people's demands, and increased benefits for labourers.

In Karak, where 50 candidates are competing for seven Muslim and two Christian seats, most of the contestants appear to be dependent on their respective tribe members, but others are turning to political and other affiliations.

Drawing on past experience, some of the tribes in Karak nominated only one candidate, but others ended up with more than one contestant, thus reducing their chances of sending one of their kindfolk to the new House.

While the strong Tarawneh tribe could agree for the first time on one candidate, Khaled Tarawneh, the equally-strong Majalis could not.

Both Abdul Hadi Majali and Amjad Hazza' Majali are running, due to what Amjad Majali described as a "dispute within the family."

Two other candidates from the Majali tribe are Majed Majali and Rakan Majali.

Amjad and Abdul Hadi Majali last month published conflicting accounts in the major Arabic dailies, each claiming support of a faction of their tribe.

According to recent press accounts, other Majali nominees withdrew to give a stronger chance to Abdul Hadi Majali, considered by many as a favourite by virtue of his experience in different public posts and in the political arena.

Mr. Majali is the secretary general of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) and a former minister of housing and public works and ambassador to the U.S. Before that, he headed the Public Security Department after completing his tenure as chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Other prominent tribes in Karak, where more than 99,146 voters are registered, include the Ghassaneh tribe, which nominated Ayed Adaleh, Ijam tribe (Dua' Mahadeen), Tarawneh tribe (Khaled Tarawneh), Sarairah (Riyad Sarairah), and the Christian Halassa tribe (Makram Qnsous).

Hafeetha Ma'aytah, the only woman competing in a male stronghold, will be contesting along with other 16 women for some of the 80 seats in the 13th Parliament.

Karak could be considered the most represented district in the Kingdom, with one seat for every 10,000 voters, compared to Amman, with more than 33,000 voters for every seat (660,557 registered voters and 20 allocated seats).

In Ma'an District, comprising the city of Ma'an and the sub-districts of Shobak and Wadi Mousa, the 17 candidates pledged to support women, create jobs, fight corruption, and support the youth movement.

The total number of registered voters in Ma'an is 14,813.

The candidates, competing for three Muslim seats, promised to follow up demands for the establishment of a private university in Ma'an independent from Mu'tah University, which has a branch in the district.

Some candidates, however, appeared to be antithetical to the tribal nature of their region, campaigning against tribalism and sectarianism.

According to a report published Tuesday in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, some tribes in Ma'an, Shobak, and Wadi Mousa, which have more than one candidate representing them, are trying to convince some of the candidates to withdraw in favour of the stronger contestant.

The Ma'an candidates, whose banners did not largely focus on political issues, represent major tribes such as Kharab tribe which nominated Ahmad Abu Aqala and Hisham Sharari, Al Karasheeh tribe (Nayef Hilalat and Akram Kreishan), Al Fanaasah tribe (Nour Fanaasah and Jasser Ma'ani), Al Shamyayeh tribe (Walid Awajan), and Al Aqaleeh tribe (Khaled Arrar).

In Shobak, where 5,815 voters registered, nominees are Abdullah Hababbeh, Ramadan Rawashdeh, and Mohammad Gimeimeen.

In Wadi Mousa, where 6,900 voters registered, nominees are Ahmad Hasanat, Majed Abu Faraj, Ghazi Tweisli, Oklah Khleifat, and Ahmad Alayah.

In Tafleh, the 18 candidates, who are competing for three Muslim seats, echoed their southern neighbours' concerns, which mainly focused on service-oriented issues.

Some banners promised the establishment of colleges and universities in Tafleh, construction of dams to provide more water, and the creation of an industrial city within the district.

According to Tafleh sources, the people in the district have been complaining that the 12th Parliament neglected their needs, and are hoping that new representatives would fulfil their demands.

A prominent former Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, Abdullah Akaleh, who represented the IAF in the 12th Parliament, chose to defy the Muslim Brotherhood boycott and run in the elections.

The Brotherhood Monday expelled Dr. Akaleh from the movement.

Dr. Akaleh and another candidate, former deputy, Rabea Sa'oud, come from 'Imeh, a town in Tafleh. Dr. Sa'oud represents the NCP in the elections.

Mohammad Oran, secretary general of the Arab Land Party, is supported by his party and other leftist parties.

The rest of the candidates from Tafleh, where approximately 32,111 voters are registered, are supported by their tribes and include Ibrahim Jfour, Mohammad Shbeilat, Abdul Rahim Khreizat, and Mohammad Qazansha.

Other candidates from Tafleh are Yabha Khawaldeh, Sattam Awwad, Sidqi Shbarat, Qussay Mahasneh, Odeh Sawaleh, Mousa Ma'adeen, Mohammad Zidanee, Mahmoud Rfu'a, Fahmi Rbeihat, Bassam Qreimat, and Ahmad Salman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammed sends regards to Saudi prince
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday sent a cable to the Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, congratulating him on his successful surgery. Prince Mohammad wished Prince Sultan continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz.

Royal Decree endorses appointment
AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Tuesday endorsing a cabinet decision appointing Nasha'at Dleihan Majali and Imran Amin Khamash as governors at the Ministry of Interior.

WHAT'S GOING ON

MEMORIAL MASS
* A memorial mass for the late Mother Teresa at the Church of the Visitation Home, Al Hashimiyeh (Hammam area) at 4:00 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL
* German film "Fitzcarraldo" and Greek film "Me Mia Cravvyi," at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

FILM

* "Children's film 'Just William,' at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY

* Children's play "Shahroux and Traffic Rules," at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

EXHIBITIONS

* "New Generations" (students' drawings, water colours, and oil paintings) at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun, until Oct. 17.

* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 30.

* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al Ebedi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 5337598).

* "The Project of the Essence: Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s," at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Mur-murs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 6588967), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura, Mediterranean" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesday).

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

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Cause worthy of concern

THE ARAB League secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, recently criticised the U.N. sanctions against three Arab countries for having lasted "too long" and for being "exaggerated." The chief of the 22-member Arab organisation was referring to Iraq, Libya and Sudan which have bore the brunt of international punitive measures. What prompted the Arab League's secretary general to speak out on behalf of the entire Arab World on this issue is the plight of the innocent Iraqi, Libyan and Sudanese peoples at a time when it is too obvious that they bear no responsibility for the "objectionable" policies of their governments.

Lest the comments of Mr. Abdul Meguid be misinterpreted or misconstrued, he made clear that his call for lifting the measures against the three Arab countries was not intended to bypass the U.N. but rather to work within it to end the ordeals of the three Arab peoples. It is within the framework of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council that the Arab League wishes to pursue its goal of terminating the agonies of the three people.

With all fairness, it is not only the three targeted Arab countries which have violated U.N. resolutions to deserve being selected for venting the anger of the international community. Many other U.N. member states have a long record of violations but somehow succeeded in escaping punishments of even the mildest forms. Libya has been found "guilty" for not turning in Libyans suspected of involvement in the downing of a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 and an air embargo had been slammed on it. All mediation efforts to find a middle ground solution to the impasse have ended in failure.

The fate of the Iraqi people is even worse. A combination of economic, air and military embargoes have been placed on the country ever since the 1991 Gulf war. Sudan does not fare much better in the eyes of the international community after it has been accused of aiding and abetting international terrorism.

There are of course many governments that are guilty of worse contraventions, but they do not seem to attract the attention of the powers that call the shots within the U.N. The least the Arab World may expect from the international community is to draw a line between regimes and their respective peoples so that the innocent may not end up paying for errors that they are not responsible for.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab criticised Jordanian authorities for ordering the removal of election campaign banners bearing anti-Israeli slogans. Qallab said such a measure is an infringement on personal freedom and freedom of expression. He said the order was probably motivated by banner slogans declaring "total objection to normalisation with the Zionist enemy." According to the writer, such slogans are quite understandable to Jordanians who have witnessed Israel's flagrant violations of the peace treaty it signed in 1994. He added that if Israelis were to raise banners calling for no normalisation with Jordan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could by no means prevent them from doing so. Qallab said it should be stressed that the peace treaty might have ended the state of war but it in no way can remove the hatred from the hearts of the people who have been at war for decades. Greece still considers Turkey an arch-enemy after more than a century of liberation from Turkish occupation, he said. Besides, Qallab said, calling an Israeli a Zionist is a source of pride for him, not an insult.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek said the Jordanian-Israeli deal over the Misha'al affair was a scandal that both Israel and Jordan worked quickly on to hush it up. Fanek said the failed attempt on the life of the Hamas leader in Amman caused embarrassment to Netanyahu as it did to His Majesty King Hussein. He said Netanyahu came out as an irresponsible and arrogant scoundrel, and King Hussein, a true believer in peace with Israel, let down by this dangerous adventure. The only winner in the whole affair, said the writer, was Hamas which secured the freedom of its leader Sheikh Yassin and whose adamant stand against Israel was boosted more than ever before, according to the writer. He said the deal resulted in the release of the two Mossad agents in exchange for the life of Khaled Misha'al and resulted in Israel, the perpetrator of the crime, escaping intact. Jordan, on whose lands Israel committed the crime, was the only party that got nothing from this affair except that a group of people holding Jordanian passports, but affiliated to Palestinian groups, were released from Israeli jails, said the writer.

Washington Watch

Netanyahu: Isolated but still dangerous

By Dr. James Zogby

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is an increasingly isolated figure. Fury in the Arab World over his policies is being echoed within Israel as well. And a recent poll demonstrates that the majority of American Jews support policies that run counter to those of the Netanyahu government.

Harsh rhetoric is being used to denounce the prime minister by several prominent Israeli analysts and opinion makers, even some from within his own Likud Party. A recent Israeli poll shows two-thirds of Israelis having an unfavourable view of their leader, and in recent articles in the Hebrew press, Netanyahu has been accused of being a "liar" a man who "lives in a fantasy world," and his government has been called "imbecilic" and "a danger to regional peace."

When attacked at home, Israeli leaders sometimes turn to the American Jewish community for support. Netanyahu can still count on the support of the leadership of many American Jewish organisations. But even before the recent Mossad terrorist attack against a Hamas leader inside Jordan, the policies of the prime minister had fallen into dis-favour with the majority of American Jews.

In fact, the American Jewish community is more polarised than ever before regarding the Middle East peace process. This division is not so much within the ranks of the community as it is between the leadership of the organisations and Jewish public opinion.

A recent poll (completed Sept. 21) established that the overwhelming majority of American Jews support a balanced U.S. Middle East peace policy. The poll, conducted by President Clinton's own pollsters (Penn and Shoen), interviewed 1,198 Jews and had a margin of error of less than three per cent.

The only good news the poll has for Netanyahu is that he is viewed more favourably by American Jews than Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. At the same time as expected, the majority of U.S. Jews demonstrate strong support for Israel. The poll shows that 82 per cent of all U.S. Jews want the "U.S. special relationship with Israel" to be strengthened and 94 per cent believe that "Israel will always need a strong army." So much for Netanyahu's good news.

The bulk of the Penn and Shoen poll makes it clear that the prime minister and his government can take little comfort in the policy attitudes of American Jews.

For example:

- 71 per cent believe that Netanyahu "has not done enough to promote the cause of peace." Only 18 per cent think that he has;

- 94 per cent say that a "stable peace with the Palestinians is important for Israeli security," thus implicitly rejecting Netanyahu's "security first" argument;

- 84 per cent say that the U.S. should pressure both Netanyahu and Arafat when necessary, and 89 per cent urge the U.S. to be evenhanded in its policy; and

- 82 per cent believe that the U.S. should "reassure

Palestinians of U.S. support for independent statehood";

- 79 per cent support U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's call for Israel to take a "time-out" from settlements; and

- 68 per cent say that U.S. aid to the Palestinians should be increased or kept the same.

The emerging pro-peace consensus among the majority of American Jews cannot be good news for those who call themselves leaders of their community. Increasingly they have been taking positions in public pronouncements and in their lobbying efforts that display uncritical support for the policies of the Netanyahu government.

During a conference call Albright had with Jewish leaders prior to her recent Middle East trip, (note: this call was followed by a conference call with Arab American leaders) many of the Jewish leaders criticised her call for a balanced approach and her opposition to Israeli "unilateral acts." The few individuals on the call who supported the secretary's position were publicly ridiculed for being "out of line." The poll shows that the opposite is true.

Several Jewish groups have recently undertaken advertising campaigns and lobbying efforts adopting anti-peace attitudes of the Netanyahu government, for example, condemning Palestinian President Arafat, calling for a freeze in Palestinian aid and promoting security issues before other considerations in the peace process.

And no major U.S. Jewish organisation has supported the call for a settlement freeze or recognised the Palestinian right to statehood. The Penn and Shoen poll shows that these positions do not reflect public opinion.

If the leadership of the mainstream organisations is out of touch with their membership, further out of line is an extremist wing of the Jewish community, which has caused serious problems in recent years. The pro-Likud Zionist Organisation of America (ZOA) working with the Republican right-wing leadership in Congress, has for example, succeeded in forcing a closure of Washington's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office (an action which AIPAC, the Israeli lobby also supported) and freezing aid to the Palestinian National Authority. The ZOA has also been leading the effort to oppose confirmation of Martin Indyk as assistant secretary of state. They accuse Indyk of being critical of Israel, meddling in internal Israeli affairs, and taking positions that favour Palestinians.

Two groups that will find the poll in line with their own thinking, however, are the American Friends of Peace Now, a grouping of liberal U.S. Jews who oppose settlements and strongly support the peace process and the Israel Policy Forum (IPF), a pro-peace grouping of mainstream Jewish leaders who support the peace programme of Israel's Labour Party.

It was the IPF that commissioned the Penn and Shoen poll in order to demonstrate to the Clinton administration and the rightist leadership of the Jewish community that the majority of American Jews do not support the hawkish policies of

the Netanyahu government.

Of course, the picture of where things go from here will not be simple. A mere poll does not by itself change politics. The organised financial power of the pro-Israel PACs and AIPAC, although out of touch with the majority of Jewish opinion, are still a power with which politicians will have to contend.

And far-right groups and individuals like the ZOA, the ultra-orthodox, and zealots like Dr. Irving Moscovitz can still create serious problems by supporting right-wing allies in the U.S. and promoting provocative projects in occupied Palestinian lands.

Moscovitz is a case in point. He is an independently wealthy doctor who made millions first in the hospital business and more recently by running a legal bingo gambling hall in a poor Hispanic area in California. By himself, Moscovitz has contributed almost \$20 million to extremist fundamentalist groups in Israel with the express purpose of buying Arab properties in Jerusalem. It was Moscovitz who was behind the takeover of the St. John's Hospice and the Shepherds Hotel. He financed the construction of the tunnel in the Old City and he was the person whose plans at Ras Al Amud touched off recent unrest.

It was Moscovitz and a small number of other multi-millionaire American Jews who helped to finance Netanyahu's election as prime minister and Ehud Olmert's elections as mayor of Jerusalem. They have also funded far-right groups like the ZOA in the U.S. and extremist groups in Israel.

It is important to note that many American Jews are now criticising Moscovitz's provocative acts, and there is growing debate within the Jewish community over the political positions of both the Israeli government and those who claim to be their leaders.

The danger to Middle East peace posed thus far by Netanyahu and his supporters in Israel and the U.S. is considerable. The fact that he is unpopular in Israel, and his policies are disfavoured by the majority of American Jews is a hopeful sign. But despite calls in Israel for his ouster, he is still in power and the damage that he may yet do is worrisome.

The lessons of the Penn and Shoen poll should be clear to U.S. politicians. The views of the majority of Israelis and American Jews are not reflected by the Netanyahu government or by Israel's famed lobby in the U.S. Political leaders in the U.S. ought to have the courage, therefore, to apply needed pressure to change Israeli policy.

But there is a lesson for Arabs as well. Since a majority of Israelis and American Jews do not support this Israeli government or its policies, Arab policy ought to be firm and directed at further strengthening this opposition and emboldening it.

The anti-Islamic Islamists

By G.H. Jansen

IT IS not surprising that groupings termed as "Islamist" should dominate the recently released list of organisations categorised by the Clinton administration as "terrorist" and banned from operating or raising funds in the U.S. For all these groupings are anti-Israel and draw upon general anti-Israeli feeling to achieve popularity. But although considered "Islamist" because their ultimate goal is the establishment of "Islamic states," most of the groups on the U.S. list are essentially anti-Islamic in their programmes and practices.

Among the Islamic groupings on the list are the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and Armed Islamic Groups (GIA), the Egyptian Gamaa Islamiyya and Taqfir wal-Hijrah and the Lebanese Hizbollah and the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These groups can be divided into two types. Those which are seeking to overthrow their own governments with the aim of establishing "Islamic" states in their countries. And those fighting foreign oppressors for the liberation of their land and people. The Algerian and Egyptian groupings belong to the first type, while the Palestinian and Lebanese groups to the second. What is significant about these two types is that they follow distinctly different strategies in their pursuit of their objectives.

The first are anti-Islamic because they enthusiastically employ means which are anathema to Islam; the second types are less anti-Islamic because they reluctantly and guiltily employ anti-Islamic means to secure national liberation.

The Algerian and Egyptian groups, contained militarily by the regular armed forces of the state, increasingly resort to violence against innocent civilians. Violence which can only be termed "anti-Islamic" because it violates not only the human rules for warfare laid out in the Koran but also the injunctions of the Prophet who ordered his own troops, "kill not the old men who cannot fight, nor young children nor women."

The most murderous of these groups, the GIA, specifically targets old men, women

and children in its campaign of mass slaughter. And in order to emphasise its power and the helplessness of its victims employs particularly vicious means to dispatch its victims, cutting their throats, chopping off their heads or burning them alive. Indeed, it would seem the roving bands of GIA killers set out to defy the Koran and the Prophet. This makes them the most anti-Islamic — and defiantly anti-Islamic — of the militant Islamists.

But the GIA did not begin the slaughter in

Violence which can only be termed "anti-Islamic" because it violates not only the human rules for warfare laid out in the Koran but also the injunctions of the Prophet who ordered his own troops, "kill not the old men who cannot fight, nor young children nor women."

Algeria. This was begun by the main grouping of militants, the FIS, which targeted intellectuals, singers, sportsmen, professionals, teachers and university professors and students. This strategy was meant to undermine the cultural foundations of the secular Algerian republic but merely alienated a majority of Algerians. This strategy was anti-Islamic as well for the Prophet who told his followers, "Acquire knowledge. It enableth

its possessor to distinguish right from wrong" and "go in quest of knowledge even unto China." The FIS can thus be classified as anti-Islamic as well.

The Egyptian groups are less violent but indulge in the killing of politicians, intellectuals and ordinary citizens — still their campaign of violence cannot compare with that of the Algerian anti-Islamic Islamists. This makes the Egyptian groupings less anti-Islamic than those in Algeria.

The Lebanese Hizbollah takes pride in focusing its attacks on members of the Israeli army and of Israel's surrogate "South Lebanon Army" with the aim of driving these two occupying forces out of a nine-to-fifteen kilometre-wide strip of Lebanese territory along the border with Israel. Hizbollah is bound not to target Israeli civilians or civilian areas by the "understandings" which brought to an end Israel's 1996 bombardment of southern Lebanon. Hizbollah generally observes this prohibition although when Israel bombs or fires upon Lebanese civilians Hizbollah has retaliated by rocketing northern Israel. Although Hizbollah, in common with the other Islamist groupings, seeks to establish an "Islamic state" in Lebanon it is committed to doing so by democratic means and has organised itself as a normal political party with deputies in parliament.

Knowing full well the Prophet's injunction about not killing innocent civilians, the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements employ suicide bombers against Israeli civilians as a means to achieve their goal of the liberation of Palestinian territory from Israeli occupation. Indeed, the spiritual guide of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, recently released from prison in Israel, repeated this injunction when speaking about Hamas activities, indicating that they have adopted this strategy with regret and only because they have no choice. But this does not diminish it as an anti-Islamic strategy. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, like Hizbollah, also seek to create an "Islamic state" once Palestine is liberated, but it is not clear what means they would use.

In addition to these anti-Islamic Islamists

seeking either to overthrow their governments or liberate their lands, there are anti-Islamic Islamists in power in the Muslim World. The most anti-Islamic of these groupings is the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Taliban are anti-Islamic because they violate the Koran's most important prescription: "There is no compulsion in religion" (Surah II, verse 256). The Taliban compels men to attend prayers in the mosques; its militants attack and beat with sticks and rifle butts those who do not. The Taliban orders men to grow beards of a certain length — and not to trim their beards on pain of a thrashing. The Taliban forces women into the all-enfolding burka although the Koran commands women only to "be modest" and "draw veils over their bosoms" (Surah XXIV, verse 31). The Taliban also forces women into the home and forbids them from working or seeking an education: all these prohibitions are anti-Islamic. The Taliban bans photography — on the ground that "graven images" are prohibited as objects of worship. And the Taliban prohibits television, radio and music. (An earlier anti-music Islamist was the last of the great Moghul emperors, Aurangzeb, whose courtiers, in protest, took out a funeral procession to mourn the death of music.)

The Taliban has adopted anti-Islamic practices because this is a tribal grouping which has not yet been civilised by Islam and by the body of law and practice developed in the 14 centuries of Muslim history. Indeed, the Taliban can be categorised as pre-Islamic.

Likewise the violent disputes currently being pursued in bloody fashion between Sunnis and Shias in Pakistan are wholly anti-Islamic because Islam stresses the brotherhood of the Umma, or Community of the Faithful.

What is most glaring about the anti-Islamic Islamists of today is the huge gap between the Faith preached and practised by the Prophet and the behaviour of those who claim to be Islam's adherents but understand nothing of the Faith.

Not by current trends

To the Editor:

I WAS saddened to read the outdated, cynical views of Richard Tanner in his article last week: "Low pay, status, keep male teachers in the minority." As a male primary teacher with recent U.K. experience, now working in Jordan, I would hate to think that your readers would consider the views expressed in the article as accurate in relation to current trends in British education or representative of the views of men in what is a far more enriching career option than Mr. Tanner would have us believe.

The idea that men are not prepared to accept the so-called "drudgery" of the classroom is as preposterous as it is inaccurate; what attracts many of us to the classroom is that teaching is the very opposite of this description. Every day is different, filled with new challenges and the reward

of seeing children progress and delight in their learning is a motivational factor in itself. It is an old, but true cliché that children get out of a lesson what the teacher puts into it. Of course there are teachers who fail to inspire their pupils, but we should also acknowledge the majority of male and female teachers who not only inspire the children in their charge, but transport them to even greater levels of knowledge and understanding.

The idea that women are "less ambitious" is a terrible slight. After a decade teaching in the U.K. I am in little doubt that women are just as ambitious as their male counterparts: indeed the prevailing view amongst many in the profession is that a good deal of women have to work twice as hard to achieve promotion because there are still a small number of men in senior positions who cling to such prehistoric views.

LETTERS

Teaching has never been a 'convenient' option: in the real world the vast majority of U.K. teachers work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for five days a week, plus many extra hours at home in the evenings and at weekends, in preparation, record-keeping and keeping abreast of current good practice. There is nothing "safe" about teaching a class of 30 pupils all with their own ideas and individual needs.

Teaching is a worthwhile and rewarding career for men and women, but we will not attract more men into primary classrooms whilst those already there, express such negative views.

Stuart McLay

Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Jailed Europeans

By John Hargrave

THEir names are well known to people of many nationalities. They are the names of the European prisoners of war who were held in the Japanese camps in the Philippines during the Second World War. They were held there for years, and many of them died. Their names are: ...

day, October 15, 1997
Dr. James Zogby
gerous

Features

Cairo declares war on the press

By Robert Fisk

Egypt has launched an unprecedented campaign against the press in Cairo, taking Arab journalists to court for a story that was never published and banning foreign correspondents from reporting attacks on tourists. All this in a country which claims to be a functioning democracy.

"MEET ME in court," Magdi Hussein said. And sure enough, when I turn up at the Egyptian ministry of justice's courthouse in the Cairo suburb of Abbassiya, there is the bespectacled and bearded editor of the Islamist Al Shaab newspaper — published twice weekly with a circulation of 130,000 — standing in the tired atrium of Court Number 3, wearing his usual friendly scowl of contempt for authority. He is appealing a libel case brought by Alaa Al-Alfi, the son of the interior minister, whom his newspaper has accused of refusing to settle a Cairo hotel bill and then bullying the staff when they demanded payment.

Mr. Hussein spends a lot of his time accusing the ruling authorities of corruption. So do other journalists in Cairo. Mr. Hussein himself awaits trial on six other hearings, including another libel case for hearing in a criminal court brought by Minister Hassan Al Alfi himself — whom Mr. Hussein accuses of protecting drug traffickers. Four other writers and a cartoonist on Al Shaab are named in the charge. Minister Al Alfi, needless to say, denies everything. And like Egypt itself, Mr. Hussein's court cases drag on without resolution.

Kafka — cliché though it may be to say so — would be at home in Court Number 3. The ceiling fans slowly turn the sweaty heat high above us while against

the wall, 20 handcuffed prisoners stand inside a medieval iron cage, awaiting trial. Lawyers howl pleas at the three docile-looking civilian judges while guards bawl at women relatives of the caged men. Above the din, I can just hear one of the minister's two advocates demanding a verdict within hours. Mr. Hussein — uncaged — stands before the bench with the same unputting smile.

It would be pleasant to believe that this is some kind of aberration, a freak deviation from Egypt's much trumpeted (and American-backed) democracy. Alas, no. Only last month, a Cairo court found six journalists from the Saudi-owned Arab daily Al Sharq Al Awsat guilty of libelling President Hosni Mubarak's two sons, Ala and Gamal, by claiming that both used their father's name for furthering business deals. Five of the reporters escaped imprisonment because they were outside the country but the sixth, an Egyptian, received six months in jail.

Oddly, the supposedly libellous article never appeared — the Egyptians started proceedings on the basis of an advertisement in the paper for a story that was to appear in its sister magazine Al Jedida. It was only after Al Sharq pulped 120,000 copies of the offending magazine, fired two journalists and issued a grovelling apology that the unforgiving Egyptians took the journalists to court. Al Sharq, one of the most prestigious of Arab journals, then closed its Cairo office.

Military prosecutors meanwhile banned reporters from writing about the killing of nine German tourists by gunmen outside the Cairo National Museum last month. The ministry of tourism said

journalists had no right to question the official version of the attack on the bus — which states that two rather than five gunmen staged the assault — nor to call it an organised "Islamist terrorist" operation because the principal gunman was "insane." The fact that the principal killer, Saber Abu el-Ulla, shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) as he set fire to the bus was ignored.

Even more embarrassing was the fact that Saber Abu el-Ulla was responsible for killing two Americans and a Frenchman in 1993 (again crying "Allahu Akbar" and again excused as "insane"). The Egyptians, of course, are frightened that their tourist industry will again collapse if the slaughter of the Germans appears to be political. Potential tourists should not be warned. Hence the ban. Even this report is thus technically in breach of Egyptian law.

Already one major European news organisation has cravenly come to heel and censored all its reports on the attack. International news agencies and television companies are equally fearful that if they breach the censorship law, the Egyptians may close their offices. Thus Cairo bureaus have become hostages to prevent journalists from reporting the story: Preservation of the office, it seems, is more important than the truth. "The government also intimidates our Egyptian staffers," a foreign news agency journalist says. "When this happens, our news dries up. So what are we going to cover?"

The independent Cairo-based Middle East Times suffered official punishment on Aug. 22 when its editor, Thomas Cromwell, was detained at Cairo airport and deported to Athens without explanation. His next editorial, written



Egyptians enjoy tea and 'sheeshen' at a Cairo café while watching television (AFP photo)

Media's nadir

OTHER ARAB media is in a sorry state. If it played its most credible role in opposing colonialism in the Middle East, it is now at its nadir — supporting local dictators, censoring its own reports, accepting bribes from the rich and powerful, acting as a mouthpiece for ruthless regimes.

Jordan recently closed down 13 weekly newspapers, some of them Islamist.

Lebanon's 16 freelance television stations have been cut to four — all owned by prominent members of the Lebanese government.

In Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, criticism of the head of state is seen as treachery.

In Tripoli, Cairo, Algiers (where more than 50 journalists have been killed by Islamists), Tunis and capitals of the Gulf states, journalists are

imprisoned for the mildest criticism. In Lebanon — where the press is still comparatively free — and Jordan and Palestine, writers have been locked up.

The Saudi-owned international Arab press — especially Al Hayat and Al Sharq Al Awsat — have some freedom.

But the Saudi-owned Orbit television channel brought about the collapse of BBC's Arabic television service over a programme about the kingdom.

Israel cannot be left out of the equation. Local censorship means that most accounts of the attempted murder by Mossad of a Hamas leader in Amman are preceded by the words "foreign media are reporting..."

Yosef Lapid, an Israeli journalist, this week described the censorship as "an infantile game" — but at least he could say it.

Jailed Europeans rue drug run from Morocco

By John Baggaley
Renter

RABAT — Rough concrete walls loom above the patient line of people outside the green metal doors of Rabat-Sale prison in the Moroccan capital.

Inside, in a vast visiting room of stifling heat and noise, families and prisoners swap news, complaints and problems in a brief 40 minute once-weekly visit. Some laugh, others are in tears.

No bars, just a waist-high partition, separates convicts and visitors — Moroccan women in bright dresses, unshaven men in T-shirts and dingy jeans.

Almost every group carries one or two baskets of "luxuries" or ordinary needs allowed each week for those in jail.

But away from the roar of Arabic, scores of foreigners, mostly Europeans, sit listlessly in cells, read, smoke or, according to inclination, work in one or other of the painting, pottery, masonry or furniture workshops provided for prisoner recreation.

They are some of the near 600 foreigners held in Morocco's prisons, mainly in Rabat, Casablanca or Tangier, towns nearest to their country's consulate.

"At the moment, there are 572 foreigners in prison. Ninety per cent of them are in for drugs," said penitentiary Director Mohammed Liddi at the Justice Ministry. "Most are Europeans, from Spain, France, Germany, Italy, English, Belgians, Portuguese, all nationalities..."

Some are bitter, others remarkably frank. Some seem to try to benefit from their incarceration, others brood sullenly.

In a narrow cell of six inmates, with concrete-based bunks on either side, a small television set flickers. It has two channels, French and Arabic. A closed-circuit system also recently started on which films in other languages can be shown, say officials.

Nigel Hogben, 33, from Camberley in southern England, has just marked his birthday, the second since his arrest in March 1996. He is doing five years, plus two unless he pays the fine of five million centimes (\$5,200) demanded by Moroccan customs.

He complains of nothing to do, and about the food. "We cook for ourselves with food that is virtually inedible, boiled vegetables and sometimes rice, a bit of chicken sometimes."

Some are bitter, others remarkably frank. Some seem to try to benefit from their incarceration, others brood sullenly.

"We were with 130 in a cell. Food was full of cockroaches and hairs. There was one tap, one toilet."

Waganaar admits he was trying to smuggle 34 kilograms of hashish when he was arrested in the northern town of Tetouan. "I was doing it. My advice to anyone is 'don't'."

His cellmates laugh. "He was caught red-handed," one said.

He said his mother had been out to visit. The authorities are flexible over inevitably rare visits by relatives of overseas prisoners, allowing them three sessions in a week instead of one.

Next door, Frank Tumansery, 34, divorced with two teenage children in Holland, maintained he was framed by a Moroccan who invited him on holiday and planted the drug.

"I'm off home in four weeks. The hardest thing is the Third World. And the food," said Post who did two years

in prison.

In the corridor, José Manuel Bravo, 30, a mechanic from Barcelona, had two days to go of his term. Despite Spain being Morocco's nearest European neighbour, he said his wife and daughter, 14, had not visited. "It costs too much," he said.

Carsen Suar, 29 from Berlin and serving four years, is luckier. His wife, Conchita Suarez, a 25-year-old from Portugal, comes out every six weeks, he said. The two met before his arrest and because visitors of the opposite sex must be relatives, they married last December in Taza jail.

Christine Sherman, 48 on July 27, from Bury in north England, has the same problem. Her boyfriend Mark Darrington from London, is also serving five years in the same prison, but to visit each other they need to marry.

She shares an uncarpeted cell, some seven metres by 4.5, with 16 beds in double bunks arranged along white-washed walls. Bare light bulbs hang from the high ceiling. Under and between each bunk are neatly stowed personal belongings. There's no privacy or own space "but the girls are all nice here and it's no problem."

"I'm the only Englishwoman in here. The hardest thing is not being able to communicate," she said, adding that a French girl was trying to teach her French and she was teaching her English.

In the studio for those interested in painting, Claes Serge, 25, who was heading home to Lommel in Belgium in a week, said he had learnt French, Spanish and a little Arabic in jail during his three-year term.

Frenchman Marc Dalbagne, from Avignon, has three years to go. He taught himself to paint in jail, and now runs the workshop.

What does he miss most? He shows a painting of his son, Stephen, 13, and the start he has made on a portrait of his other boy, six-year-old Jeremy.

A tour of the prison shows facilities exist for those who want to take advantage of them. The atmosphere is relatively relaxed, and compared to Singapore and other countries with mandatory death sentences for drugs, Moroccan justice is liberal.

But as it tries to stamp out drugs it is looking at increasing maximum penalties to 30 years from 10. And for new prisoners standing before the huge ledger books as details are taken at the start of their sentence, "there is always fear," says prison Director Mimoun Aourarh.

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Derivatives duo helped build markets and personal fortunes

Nobel economists are architects of future euro market

PARIS (AFP) — Two U.S. economists awarded the Nobel prize for economics on Tuesday have revolutionised financial markets and have created the technical conditions for the new euro currency to become a dominant force in world finance, a French expert said.

The prize was awarded to Professor Robert Merton of Harvard University, Cambridge, and Professor Myron Scholes of Stanford University, in the United States, who, with the late Fischer Black, pioneered ways of valuing stock options.

Professor Michel Aglietta of Paris X University near Paris said: "The competitive position of different financial markets depends on their methods. The growth of the euro will depend in fact on their work."

"These two Americans are important architects of the field from which the euro is to be launched," he added.

"This is because the relationship between the euro and the dollar is likely to be very volatile, and because the range and variety of instruments associated with the euro will grow rapidly," Professor Aglietta explained.

Professors Merton and Scholes were innovative in providing ways of evaluating products of which the risk was non-linear in relation to the underlying asset such as options.

"Their method in the 1970s opened the way for a big breakthrough in what is called contingent risks.

This resulted in an enlargement of these markets. As they became more complex and linked, a great deal of financial engineering was based on their work. Whole departments of banks were built on this. It became a systematic and scientific way of making profit," Professor Aglietta said.

Professor Aglietta, who is also a scientific adviser to the International Information Forecasting Research Centre (CEPII) in Paris, explained that their complex scientific formulae for assessing risk associated with derivative instruments were now being used increasingly by banks to assess the cumulative risk of all their individual portfolios at risk.

"Banks did not have very good understanding of the risks of these instruments in their balance sheets, and as they were passed on to other parties. The collapse of Barings Bank (in Britain) was linked to a sudden change of the value of the yen which generated a huge and sudden liability which was not well managed," the French expert said.

The methods developed by Professors Merton and Scholes would in turn enable banks to know precisely at any moment how much capital they needed to carry risk, or if they should immediately close excessive positions.

Professor Aglietta, an expert in overall risk arising from the trading of so-called derivative products, said that central banks would also be able to use the same methods accurately

to assess the risks being carried by banks under their supervision.

"The implication of this is that, for example, the so-called Cooke ratios drafted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), for the capital banks must have in relation to business done, might become increasingly outdated, since these ratios are somewhat arbitrary and of fixed, permanent, duration," he indicated.

The work of the two prize-winners, since developed by others, might mean that individual banks, and above them the supervising banks, might be able to define required capital ratios by the day.

This would have fundamental implications for how the financial industry itself is financed.

Professor Aglietta noted that the BIS, known as the central bankers' central bank, had initiated fundamental studies, mainly through its Basle Committee of Banking Supervision, of ways to improve international management of latent and hidden risk on derivatives markets.

The BIS, while stressing that derivative products provide a vital function, has warned that hidden risk and a broken contract could spread domino-fashion, causing chaos in the entire financial system.

It published thoughts on banks' derivatives exposure in December 1994 and April 1995, a framework of supervisory information about derivatives activities of banks and securities firms in May 1995, details

of their derivatives activities in November 1995 and 1996, and a document on clearing arrangements in March 1997.

In July last year the euro-currency standing committee of the BIS published proposals for improving global derivatives market statistics.

Economists in London said the winners of the Nobel Prize helped build multi-billion-dollar derivative markets and vast personal fortunes for traders around the globe.

The prize jury concluded that the U.S. academics had "generated new types of financial instruments" and "laid the foundation for the rapid growth of markets for derivatives in the last ten years."

These extremely volatile markets have been at the root of many of the most high-profile trading losses seen in recent years.

A string of scandals such as the near-collapse of Britain's oldest merchant bank, Barings, and multi-billion-dollar losses that last year rocked giant Japanese bank Sumitomo were all unleashed amid the complex web of derivative trades.

Meanwhile, the director of financial markets at the London School of Economics, Professor David Webb, said that the pioneering research conducted by the prize winners had rolled up untold profits for traders.

"It has become a massive economics industry and has probably done more than anything else to justify the vast salaries of academ-

ic types on Wall Street and in the City," Professor Webb said. "Their work has made a lot of people very rich."

One analyst said with a smile that the \$500,000 prize awarded to both Professors Merton and Scholes "would be about one month's salary to those guys."

The duo are themselves partners in Long Term Capital Management investment house.

Their work, conducted in collaboration with the late Fischer Black, has allowed more accurate predictions of asset prices in the future.

In 1973, Black and Scholes published a formula now used by thousands of traders and investors each day to value stock options in markets throughout the world.

Professor Webb noted that "this is a problem in finance that has been tackled for most of this century."

Indeed, the first derivative contracts provided finance for the shipping trade routes and industrial revolution during the late 18th century.

A derivative is simply a financial contract whose value derives from an underlying asset, such as a share certificate, a coffee crop or the output of a gold mine.

Many derivatives seek to insulate producers from risk.

The breakthrough achieved by the U.S. economists related initially to so-called stock option contracts, which give the holder the right to buy an underlying stock at a given

price at some time in the future.

Their formula was subsequently used to value a whole range of derivatives, opening up untold markets to investment houses.

As barriers to capital flows have been knocked down and capital available for investment has ballooned around the world, the number and value of derivative contracts have skyrocketed.

The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE), the biggest derivatives exchange outside the United States, last month reported a 43 per cent increase in trade. On average, contracts worth 218 billion pounds (\$348 billion) changed hands every day in September.

Under the U.S. theory, "asset prices seem to behave well, but there are numerous behavioural aspects that cannot be described theoretically," Professor Webb said.

The baffling mathematical models and rapid birth of derivatives trades, which remain eclipsed from the "Old Guard" of financiers, has allowed fraudulent market manipulation to creep into the trading web.

Nick Leeson, blamed by Barings' management for running up losses of \$1.2 billion in Singapore derivatives trades, and metals guru Yasuo Hamanaka, who notched up losses of \$2.6 billion for Sumitomo, have shown just how costly these growth markets can be.

completed and LNG supplies will be in a full swing. Qatar's annual revenues are expected to double," an industry source said.

The Kuwaiti-based IAIGC estimated foreign investment in oil and other sectors in Qatar at around \$4.5 billion at the end of 1996.

It said plans are under way to boost oil capacity to more than 500,000 barrels per day in 2000 from around 400,000 bpd, adding that Qatar's crude reserves were nearly 3.7 billion barrels at the end of 1996.

Qatar registers 9.7 per cent annual growth

DOHA (R) — Qatar said Tuesday its economy grew by an average of 9.7 per cent a year over the past five years despite difficult international economic conditions.

"The performance of the Qatari economy during the last five years was very good despite unstable international economic and financial conditions," Abdullah Ben Khalid Al Attiyah, Qatar's central bank governor said.

"The rate of growth was about 9.7 per cent (a year) during the last five years, and the average annual rate of inflation for the same period was

2.2 per cent," said Mr. Al Attiyah.

He said Qatar's non-oil sector achieved high growth rates, but he did not elaborate.

Experts said oil contributed around 35 per cent to Qatar's current gross national product (GNP) of 38 billion riyals (\$10.43 billion) and the rest came from industry, services and other non-oil sectors.

Qatar, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces over 520,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil and 75,000 bpd of condensate.

Condensate is an extremely high quality

crude oil.

Over the past three years, the tiny Arab Gulf state which controls the world's third largest reservoir of natural gas has invested heavily in diversifying its economy.

Meanwhile, official figures show Qatar reeling under almost \$6 billion of debt built up to finance projects aimed at transforming it into the world's biggest LNG producer.

The Gulf state owes \$5.7 billion to international banks and other creditors and the debt is set to increase as more funds are borrowed for liquefied natural gas (LNG) ventures, the Inter

Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) said in its annual report.

The debt accounts for nearly 79 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), while debt servicing accounts for 20 per cent of GDP and 45 per cent of exports, one of the highest rates in the world.

"The debt is expected to rise in the coming years because of the ambitious investment plans and their financing needs, especially concerning projects to develop the North Field," the Arab League's affiliate said in a 300-page report on the economies of its 22 members.

"Despite the subsequent increase in debt servicing, the situation will begin to improve at the start of the next century when those projects begin yielding their high investment returns," the IAIGC indicated.

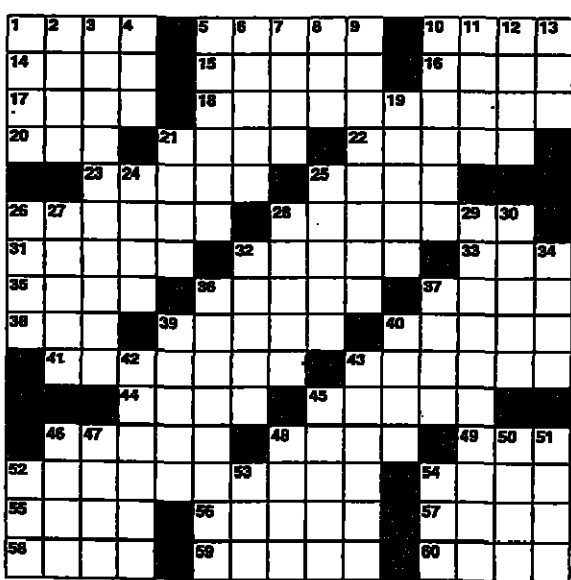
Qatar's North Field is by far the largest known gas basin in the world, containing nearly 10 trillion cubic metres of non-associated gas, around seven per cent of global gas reserves.

Qatari officials have said investment to develop the field could reach \$15 billion and production could hit 30 million tonnes in 2005.

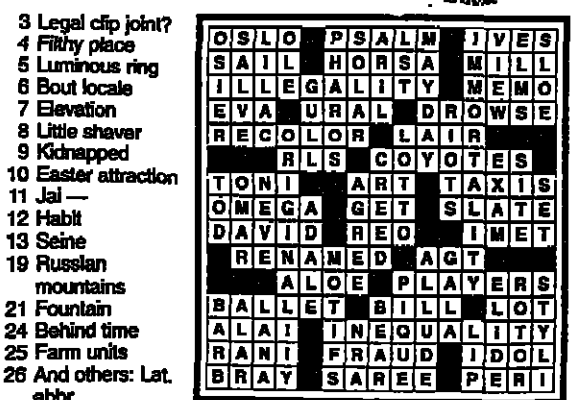
"When the projects are

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS
1 Research buildings
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14 "I... first you don't..."
15 Hunter in the sky
16 Soothing plant gel
17 Queen of Scots
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23 Actress
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32 Hears
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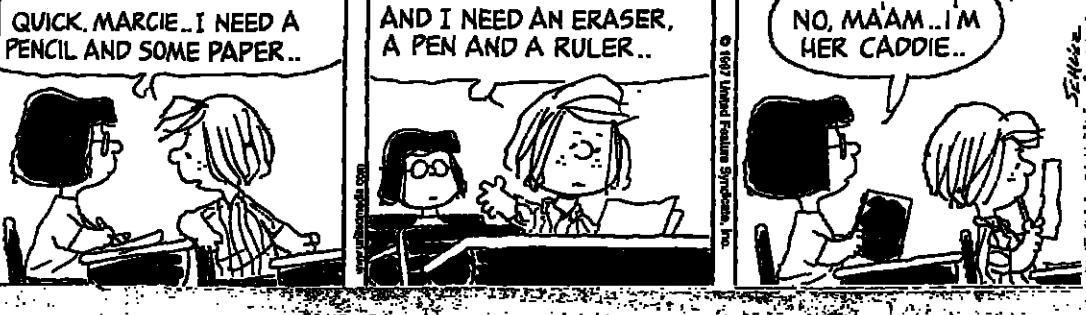


by Frances Burton

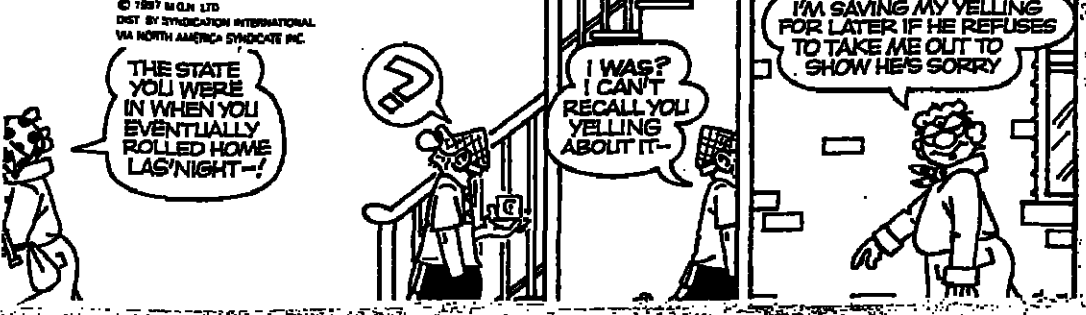


34 Legal clip joint?
35 Filthy place
36 Luminous ring
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39 Little shaver
40 Kidnapped
41 Easter attraction
42 Jail
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46 Clumsy one
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You may get a message from afar today which could confuse, however, study it well and it might just be an opportunity to advance in your career activities. Later this evening will be good to relax with your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is not a good day to make any radical changes in business or your routines, especially in the morning. You should trust your usual advisers, since you have discovered that they have been wrong on other occasions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A fellow associate could be annoying today, however, don't allow this to keep you from getting your career activities completed. This evening is a good time for new contacts, so send out the word immediately.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stay calm at career activities today, and you'll find a way to advance your ambitions. This evening should be spent with your mate in some secluded romantic location which is special only to you both.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't be extravagant where pleasure is concerned today, safeguard your assets for a rainy time. Any marketing should be completed in the afternoon or later this evening when there won't be such a crowd.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try not to disagree at home this morning, or you'll ruin that harmonious atmosphere. Get out with your mate and paint the town red tonight, however, be sure you are not out too late or you could be late to career activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact those individuals who can be of great assistance to you today, however, make sure any conversations are short and to the point. Later this evening will be good to seek out the advice of knowledgeable people.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show that you value your relationship with your mate today, and don't do anything which could cause strife. It is not a good idea to disagree over any bill, so keep quiet otherwise there could be heated words exchanged.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fellow associate may be a bit flighty today, however, be sure you keep your feet planted firmly on the ground. Handle community affairs wisely later this evening so that you can be successful in your endeavours.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can easily turn unfavourable conditions into constructive ones at this time. Be sure you are extremely careful while driving on the highway tonight, so that you don't get into any difficult situations.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't allow a nervous fellow associate to prevent you today from enjoying a recreation you had planned. Try to spend more time with your mate and plan a special romantic evening which he or she will appreciate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Find out what your loved ones desire today, and try to fit it into your busy schedule. This is not a good time later this evening to invite guests in, however, use tact if you do, so that you don't offend anyone.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"If you swallow hard enough, the cholesterol zips right through your veins without sticking."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEWED

YIRDT

SWUINE

KUNFLY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

That was my last trip. Why don't you go clean the game?

HOW THE HUNTER FELT WHEN HE LOST THE DEAL.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MIDGE PRIOR PLAQUE UNSAID

Answer: What her job in the coffee shop turned out to be — THE SAME OLD GRIND

Business

Daily

Higher water affect 66 per cent

REUTERS

The Business

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Higher water charges will not affect 66 per cent of subscribers

**** THE NEW charges on water consumption which took effect from the beginning of this month will not affect 66 per cent of the subscribers who consume less than 50 cubic metres per quarter. Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin told journalists Monday. Noting that the 66 per cent category are households, the minister said that subscribers in the Amman Governorate who consume less than 40 cubic metres and subscribers in other governorates who consume less than 51 cubic metres will even be paying less than before.**

The minister indicated that the 66 per cent category represents 418,000 subscribers of whom 228,000 subscribers are in the Amman area. He pointed out that 167,107 of the 228,000 subscribers consume 36 per cent of the water and pay only 17.1 per cent of the earnings that the Water Authority receives. Another group that will not be affected by the new charges are 250,000 subscribers from outside Amman who consume 48.49 per cent of water and contribute 19 per cent of the earnings.

Those who consume large quantities of water will be affected by the higher charges. Dr. Haddadin said pointing out that represent 27 per cent of the subscribers in Amman and 17 per cent out-

side the capital.

Kamal Zu'bi, director of the subscribers directorate, explained that households whose water consumption reaches 130 cubic metres per quarter in Amman will be charged 850 fils per cubic metre in addition to 350 fils per cubic metre as a sanitation charge. The same water and sanitation charges will be applied on subscribers outside Amman whose consumption reaches 185 cubic metres per quarter.

Subscribers other than households will be charged a unified JD1 per cubic metre for water consumption and 500 fils per cubic metre for sanitation in all regions. The minimum amount, however, should not be less than JD5 and JD2.5 respectively per quarter.

Noting that the household minimum consumption will be considered 20 cubic metres, whether consumed or not, Mr. Zu'bi said the subscription fee remains unchanged at JD88 including the cost of meters, pipes and related work charges. A JD15 deposit is also required by the Water Authority.

The new charges will reflect on the January 1998 bill which will cover consumption during the last three months of 1997 (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

Jordan cement company sees favourable outlook for '98

AMMAN — Jordan Cement Factories (JCF) Company said Tuesday it foresees improved local and export sales in 1998 as the Jordanian construction sector picks up and outside markets perform better.

"Our target next year, because we have good capacity, is that we will raise our exports and we hope our exports will increase by not less than the 11.5 per cent rise so far this year," JCF General Manager Abdul Elah Al Khatib, told Reuters.

Mr. Khatib said he expected 1998 would also see a recovery in demand from the local construction and housing sectors, after a slowdown earlier this year which hit profits in the first six months of 1997.

"We expect a pickup in local demand in 1998 with infrastructure projects com-

ing up and housing for a young population, there are always large needs," said Mr. Khatib.

The company's current 3.9 million tonnes annual capacity can cope with a substantial pickup in construction activity and better regional sales. This year's output is expected to be around 3.5 million tonnes.

"Our target is to export as much as we can from the surplus," Mr. Khatib added, stressing that the company's priority was sales to the local market.

This year's slowdown in the construction sector which depressed local sales of cement was partly offset by an 11.5 per cent growth in exports so far this year, Mr. Khatib said.

Local sales fell around 14 per cent in the first nine months of the year to 1.67 million tonnes.

JCF total exports from the start of the year until Oct. 13 rose 11.5 per cent to 770,883 tonnes from 691,605 tonnes in the same period last year.

Syria topped Jordan's export markets until end of September with 276,373 tonnes of cement followed by Malaysia which imported 116,450 tonnes. Another 111,549 tonnes were exported to Mauritius while Palestinian self-rule areas imported 89,784 tonnes.

Yemen imported 59,409 tonnes and Saudi Arabia 29,421 tonnes.

With a capitalisation of 60.4 million dinar (\$85 million), the company is one of the largest on Jordan's stock exchange. It has been a recent target of foreign investor interest as global funds build up positions in the Amman bourse.

Mr. Khatib was optimistic of higher profits in 1997 as third quarter results help accelerate a recent recovery from a setback in sales earlier in the year.

"Growth in sales continued and the upward trend we saw is still growing and we hope that this will allow our results to be better than last year," Mr. Khatib said.

Company figures showed its net profits in the nine months to Sept. 30 rose to 7.4 million dinars (\$10.4 million) from 6.0 million at the end of August when it began to recover from a weaker first half performance.

The company said a rapid pickup in sales was narrowing the fall in profits compared to the same period in 1996 and it forecast the recovery would continue through the rest of the year.

By mid-October sales were just two per cent down from the same period last year, Mr. Khatib said.

Gross profits at the end of September were 16.5 million dinars against 17.3 million in the same period last year.

The company said half-year results had been negatively affected by increased energy prices from May last year, while cement prices did not increase until April 1997.

A slowdown in the construction sector has weakened local sales of cement.

Production from JCF's two plants is not expected to rise substantially in 1997 from last year's 3.5 million tonnes.

Despite delays, the government says it still plans to go ahead with a sale of a 33 per cent stake in JCF by year end.

Government plans to sell JD100 million of shares in 10 firms to private sector

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government plans to sell around JD100 million worth of shares in 10 public shareholding companies to the private sector before the end of the year, according to official sources.

The government has already put up for sale its JD6 million worth of shares in the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company, the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company, the Jordan Tanning Company and the Paper and Cardboard Com-

pany.

However, sources at the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the government's investment arm, did not rule out many available options for selling part of the government's shares in Jordan Cement Factories Company before the end of the year, as part of a large-scale share-selling transactions that include government shares in such companies as Jordan Ceramics Company, Main Spa Complex and Alia Hotel.

JIC Investment Director Abdul Elah Al Rousan said the government is carefully examining the possibility of

selling its shares in the Main Spa and the cement company and that it is looking for the best options available.

He did not rule out the possibility of selling 33 per cent of the 49.5 per cent total government's equity in the cement company in the international market.

"We take into consideration all options and we are looking for an international strategic partner," he said.

The market value of the government's shares in the cement company is estimated at approximately JD100 million. As such, the value of the 33 per cent equity, or the

equivalent of 19.9 million shares, is estimated at JD66.6 million. The company's total assets as of June 30 was JD188.8 million, while its capital is JD60.4 million.

The government has already sold 60,000 of its shares in the Jordan Himmeh Company for JD2.1 million, calculated at JD3.5 per share.

The government has also put up for sale 40,000 shares in Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company, but no offers for purchasing the shares were received. The market value of the shares on sale is JD800,000 calculated at the latest share price, amounting

to JD20.

The company's capital is JD1.5 million, or the equivalent of 300,000 shares at the nominal value of JD5 per share.

The government is also inviting tenders to sell 70 per cent of its shares in Alia Hotel as part of a deal which officials said it will take place imminently.

In another move, the government is currently studying several measures before taking a final decision on selling 1.5 million of its shares in the Irbid District Electric Power Company, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mohamad Saleh Horani.

Mr. Hourani said the government has postponed for several weeks its decision on nine offers from major international companies to buy the shares. However, he added, the deal will be finalised soon.

The minister cited the following three reasons for postponing its decision on the sale deal: The government's subsidy to the Jordan Electricity Company, formerly known as Jordan Electricity Authority, the electricity tariff, concession and generation of energy as well as the representation of the foreign investors who will buy the shares on the company's board of directors.

The government owns 51 per cent of the company's capital, or the equivalent of 1.5 million shares whose total value is JD3.9 million at the current share price of JD2.6.

Observers say the share price does not reflect the actual value of the company's assets but, however, they point out that the price has become closer to its actual value following the announcement by the government that it is going to sell its shares in the company.

Mr. Hourani also said that a total of 17 international companies have submitted tenders to construct and operate an electricity generation plant at a capacity of 350 megawatts. He noted that a tender will be offered before the end of the year to construct the plant.

REUTERS

The Business of Information


Major Currencies & Cross Rates		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31	
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.7541	0.6174	146.09
DE Mark	0.5701	0.5517	0.6327
GB Sterling	1.6196	2.8432	2.3824
CH Franc	0.8845	119.98	0.4222
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4416	0.5073
CA Dollar	0.7238	1.2680	0.4471
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0216	0.3585
NL Guilder	0.5065	0.2977	0.3121
FR Franc	0.1700	0.2978	0.1048

Middle Eastern Currencies		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31	
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	0.7090	3.7504	0.3770
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	5.2897	0.5317
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	0.1005
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8806	0.9477
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	0.1033
Kuwait Dinar	3.2910	2.3833	1.2425
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	0.1021
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4813	2.4401
Egyptian	0.2942	0.2086	1.1032

Mid-East Currencies		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31	
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	0.1005
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1930	0.1021
KW Dinar	3.2910	2.3833	1.2425
BH Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	0.1021
CY Pound	1.2921	3.3751	1.1876

Energy		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31	
Commodity	Unit	Spot	1 Month
Brent	20.05	20.26	
W. Tera.	21.27	21.31	
Bonny	20.05	20.26	
Dubai	19.16	19.23	
UL Gas	197.00	194.00	

Main Equity Indices		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31	
Index	Value	Change	%
New York	DOW JONES	8066.82	-5.4
New York	S&P 500	967.58	-0.52
London	FT-SE 100	5288.9	-1.2
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17306.38	-101.68
Paris	CAC 40	3005.84	-4.58
Frankfurt	DAX	4202.37	-28.03

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUBSTANT											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/10/1997											
											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	%
346,000	241,500	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	10	340	112040	331.50	328.00	-3.50	-0.01
1,340	1,000	JOR. INDUSTRIAL BK.	15.1	0.00	20	10000	18974	1.31	1.29	-0.02	-0.01
1,190	890	MID. EAST INV. BK.	74.2	0.00	3	2700	3051	1.13	1.13		
2,600	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.3	6.11	16	4925	12770	2.58	2.59	0.01	0.01
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	0.00	3	11150	5557	4.98	4.98		
1,050	740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.96	4	700	553	8.90	7.90	-1.00	-0.11
4,050	3,520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.28	11	1773	6512	3.68	3.66	-0.02	-0.01
3,900	3,080	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	24.9	0.00	3	500	1941	3.88	3.88		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 236.35	CHG: -0.88	70	32088	211368				
2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.18	42	36514	70455	1.93	1.93		
4,030	1,320	IRSID ELECTRICITY	20.8	3.30	5	600	2114	3.40	3.49	0.09	0.01
1,550	930	HAZEL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	5	1180	1474	1.30	1.28	-0.02	-0.01
1,740	1,150	MID. EAST BUCKLE	21.0	0.00	2	67	32	1.39	1.39		
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.4	0.00	16	6750	24262	3.54	3.50	-0.04	-0.01
1,170	920	SARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	5	5200	4784	0.92	0.92		
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.21	1	500	885	1.76	1.77	0.01	0.01
950	640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	4	2000	1540	1.79	1.77	-0.02	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.33	CHG: +0.24	82	52856	105643				
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.9	3.38	24	19767	64970	3.33	3.25	-0.08	-0.01
7,050	5,420	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.0	3.33	4	450	2700	6.00	6.00		
11,100	8,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.7	8.08	13	1208	12388	11.00	11.00		
7,200	4,500	JORDAN TANNING	5.9	6.19	1	150	728	4.70	4.85	0.15	0.03
4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.2	4.50	12	3168	14091	4.47	4.44	-0.03	-0.01
7,250	5,200	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	5.1	4.00	1	100	800	5.20	5.00	-0.20	-0.04
1,760	1,230	JOR. PAPER MANF.	14.9	6.67	5	1250	1504	1.23	1.20	-0.03	-0.01
6,000	4,300	DAR ALDINA DV. INV.	14.0	4.39	1	200	1140	5.80	5.70	-0.10	-0.02
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.50	2	2499	2499	2.38	2.38		
710	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	2	2100	1071	0.52	0.51	-0.01	-0.01
1,230	820	ARAB PAPER CONV. IND.	27.2	0.00	4	2450	2181	0.89	0.89		
1,350	770	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	500	395	0.78	0.79	0.01	0.01
1,710	510	NATIONAL TIDS.	9	0.00	6	1750	998	0.56	0.57	0.01	0.01
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	13750	6468	0.55	0.55		
3,000	2,070	HAZEL. CABLE WIRE. MFAC	35.3	0.00	1	100	220	2.20	2.20		
890	530	JOR. SULPHUR-CHRM	9	0.00	10	5500	3763	0.69	0.68	-0.01	-0.01
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHM.	17.1	5.22	26	13950	16713	1.30	1.30		
1,880	1,080	UNIV. MOON. IND.	9	0.00	1	500	6636	1.24	1.24		
1,070	610	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	16.1	0.00	21	20100	17732	0.88	0.88		
2,090	1,340	JOR. EGY. READY WEAR	50.7	0.00	5	946	1261	1.67	1.64	-0.03	-0.01
1,330	1,080	UNION TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	7	3000	3563	1.18	1.19	0.01	0.01
1,200	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	51.8	0.00	2	2250	2565	1.14	1.14		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 116.59	CHG: -0.54	168	97167	167174				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 170.88	CHG: -0.69	320	162111	484185				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/10/1997											
610	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	36	89250	35460	0.41	0.39	-0.02	-0.01
800	650	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	55	245820	71647	0.80	0.79	-0.01	-0.01
570	350	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	4	2000	800	0.40	0.40		
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	7.9	0.00	5	12830	11133	0.86	0.86		
950	610	AL-QADISIYAH INV.	72.9	0.00	4	4680	2386	0.77	0.76	-0.01	-0.01
1,110	580	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	57.13	0.00	1	500	550	1.05	1.10	0.05	0.01
440	200	JOR. TIDS. MATCH-VERCO	9	0.00	2	3000	720	0.24	0.24		
690	490	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	500	243	0.49	0.49		
750	400	HAZEL. MILK. FMS. NAMICO	9	0.00	8	4350	1784	0.41	0.41		
1,020	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	12.7	0.00	2	450	473	1.00	1.05	0.05	0.01
810	410	HAYKAR DIES & MOULDS	9	0.00	2	350	351	0.45	0.43	-0.02	-0.01
650	580	HIDENAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	25	41945	16643	0.64	0.64		
1,380	850	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	11	4481	5068	1.38	1.39	0.01	0.01
730	550	RAST PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	2	1000	510	0.66	0.66		
490	290	EDNES. BKG.	9	0.00	4	1200	1088	0.35	0.34	-0.01	-0.01
120	590	INTV. POULTRY	9	0.00	4	1650	924	0.63	0.64	0.01	0.01

Brits break sound barrier on land but miss record

GERLACH, Nevada (AFP) — A jet-powered British car Monday became the first ever to break the sound barrier on land but missed getting its feat in the record books.

Fifty years after the first supersonic flight, the British team twice broke the benchmark but failed to make two barrier-breaking runs within an hour as required to make it an official record.

Thrust SSC hit 1,229.77 kilometres per hour and then 1,223.28 kilometres per hour in a second run on the Nevada desert track, but finished the second run one minute after the hour window.

"We failed by one minute," British team leader Richard Noble told reporters after the vehicle missed its window for two runs in opposite directions.

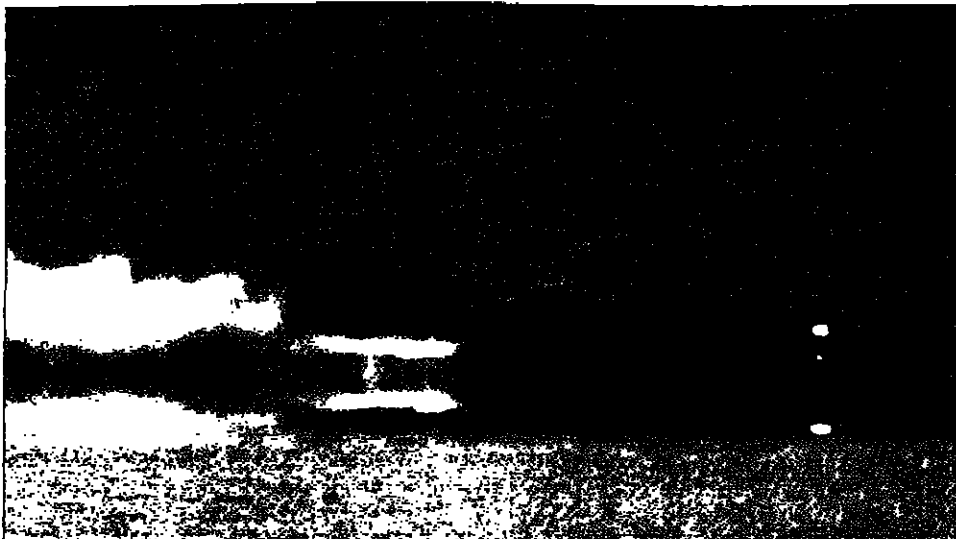
When a drag parachute failed to open after the first run on the 20.9 kilometre course, the vehicle overshot the endpoint and took 61 minutes to turn around and get ready for the second run.

The supercar driven by British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green broke the sound barrier a day before the 50th anniversary of U.S. pilot Chuck Yeager's first supersonic flight.

The Auto Club had originally said the runs missed the mark by 50 seconds, but on the British team's own internet website it acknowledged missing the deadline by one minute.

Green's 1,229.77 kilometre per hour run was 1.007 times the speed of sound or Mach 1 and the 1,223.28 sprint was 1.003 per cent of Mach.

The actual speed of sound can vary depending upon weather conditions, but the



Thrust SSC, a British jet car driven by RAF pilot Andy Green, breaks the sound barrier on run 62 reaching Mach 1.007 on the Black Rock Desert near Gerlach, Nevada. (Reuters photo)



Former land speed record holder American Craig Breedlove (L) congratulates British Thrust SSC team leader Richard Noble on the British Thrust SSC jet car breaking the sound barrier. (Reuters photo)

supercar must clear at least 1,207 kilometres per hour to break the sound barrier.

Thrust SSC, relying on a 7,650 kilogramme Avon 303 engine from a Lightning fighter, flashed across the desert leaving a huge trail of dust behind it and a muffled sonic boom.

The vehicle looks like a long pen with a tail hooked

up to two turbojet engines that each produce 20,000 pounds of thrust — or the equivalent of 1,000 Ford Escorts or 145 Formula One racing cars.

The vehicle that weighs 10,000 kilos can accelerate from a standstill to 161 kilometres per hour in four seconds while burning 18.18 litres of gasoline per sec-

ond. Crews for both the British and American teams have been in the Black Rock desert for weeks, waiting for high winds kicking up sand to pass.

The team knew that should the nose of the vehicle lift by only a fraction the front wheels would come off the ground and the "car" would cartwheel to destruction.

The clear, quiet moment finally came Monday afternoon when the Spirit of America team — also in pursuit of breaking the barrier — ceded its testing time to the British team that was close to mark.

Green, 35, wore a "Panotex" driving suit engineered to withstand extreme heat and a Kevlar helmet integrated with an air mask which provides a guaranteed air supply for up to 30 minutes.

The Oxford University graduate said he began his career driving the world's fastest car by flying fighters for 10 years.

FIFA commissioner blames hooligans

ZURICH (AFP) — The FIFA Commissioner responsible for overseeing last Saturday's World Cup qualifier between Italy and England laid the blame for the violence squarely at the feet of the hooligans and not the Italian police here on Monday.

Rene Hussy sought to minimise the incidents that resulted in 28 arrests and which left 69 injured. He said that the vast majority of the supporters had been there for the purpose of watching the match — but a mindless minority had other things on their mind.

"Ninety nine per cent of the 75,000 spectators came to watch the match. I don't understand how we could not stop 150 hooligans making a nuisance of themselves," Hussy told AFP.

Sepp Blatter, secretary general of FIFA, said he would look over the reports from Hussy and Heinz Farnher, who was at the match to observe the security problems.

Fernand Sastre, Co-President of the 1998 World Cup finals, said that his body would learn the lessons from Saturday's incidents.

"What happened on Saturday will help us to be more vigilant and for those responsible for security arrangements to learn valuable lessons," Sastre said.

Wenger predicts more glory for protege Hoddle

LONDON (AFP) — Arsene Wenger, the man who encouraged Glenn Hoddle to become a coach, believes there is no limit to what his protege can now achieve after masterminding England's progress to the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Arsenal's French manager, who signed midfield star Hoddle from Tottenham for AS Monaco 10 years ago, admits he was cheering England in Rome from his fireside armchair on Saturday night.

"Naturally I was delighted for Glenn, because it was I who encouraged him to become a manager when he was a player of mine at Monaco," said Wenger.

"I have not been able to speak to him yet since he came back from Italy, because we are both busy — but I will congratulate him as soon as I can."

"I always knew he would do very well as a manager but even I am surprised at what he has achieved already in such a short time."

"His big strength is that he knows exactly what he wants to do and when he has convinced himself that it is the right way he goes with it 100 per cent."

"He will not put himself under too much pressure by listening too much to what everybody else has to say. Once he makes his mind up what is the right thing to do he will follow his own judgment and believe in his capability."

"I think I know him well, but sometimes he surprises even me. When he decided not to make Tony Adams his captain in Rome I thought that Adams would not play in the game at all."

"But Glenn decided what he thought was best for Tony, to let him concentrate on just his own game because he has been back for only a few matches in the Premiership since his injuries. And now nobody can say he wasn't right."

Such is the mutual respect between Hoddle and Wenger that the Frenchman was immediately sounded out for the job of FA technical director almost as soon as Hoddle had been appointed England coach.

Wenger, then with Japanese club Grampus Eight, turned it down, explaining he still wanted the day-to-day involvement of club management.

But Wenger, who has taken Arsenal to the top of the Premiership this season having joined them just over a year ago, said: "I always wanted England to win in Italy, and not just because I now earn my living in this country."

"I felt that the nation needed Glenn's team to get to the World Cup finals, especially after failing to reach America in 1994. There is a great passion for the game here, which was the biggest attraction for me coming here, and it has grown even bigger in that time."

"You only have to see what Euro 96 meant to the people of this country to realise how important it was for England to qualify for the finals in France."

"But you are always pleased if you see that the team which deserves the reward most actually gets it."

"Now I think Glenn can achieve even bigger things and already I believe he has the whole country behind him."

"I wanted to go to Rome for the match on Saturday but could not get a flight from London because it was so popular. But from television I could see very early that if anybody was going to win the game it would be England. Italy never gave me the feeling they could score."

"You could tell the difference in attitude between the two teams. England were so consistent because they knew they only needed a draw, and Italy were over-stressed by the importance of the occasion."

"You could see this difference in the two managers as well. Maldini was very nervous, very stressed but Glenn always looked very calm."

Redskins dump Dallas for division lead

LANDOVER (AFP) — Stephen Davis, replacing injured rusher Terry Allen, ran for a career-high 98 yards and two touchdowns to spark Washington past Dallas 21-16 in American football here Monday.

The Redskins rose to first place in the NFC East division at 4-2 and beat the Cowboys for the fourth time in their past five meetings.

The slumping Cowboys, still struggling to find offensive consistency, slid to 3-3 and fell to third in the NFC East behind Washington and the New York Giants, 4-2.

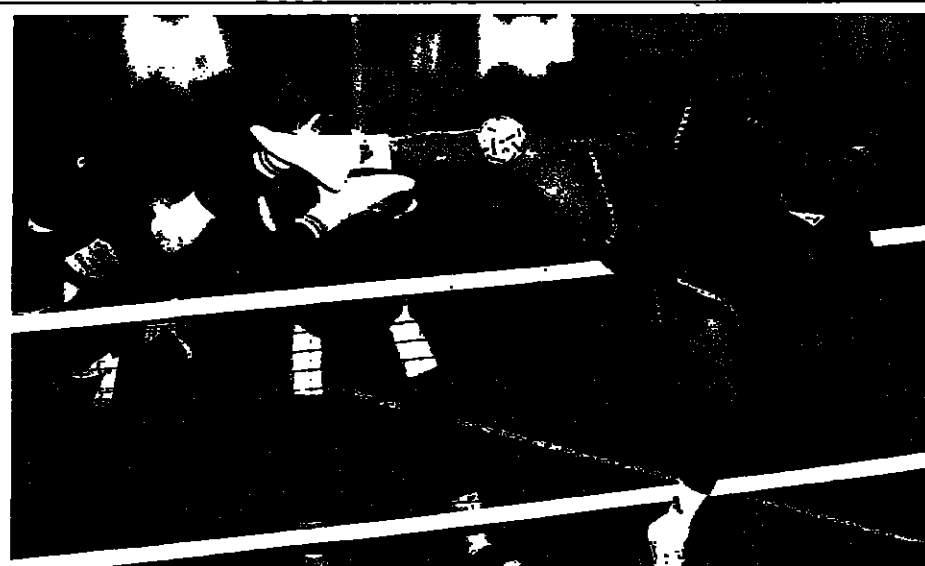
Allen departed with a sprained left knee in the first quarter as reserve Davis made the most of his chance, carrying 22 times and scoring on runs of two and four yards.

"Terry had a knee injury and I stepped up," Davis said. "The line did a great job."

Gus Frerotte, whose wife is expecting the couple's second child, completed 12-of-23 passes for 153 yards to help the Redskins improve to 3-0 in their new home stadium.

The Redskins' attack focused on rushing the ball directly at the Dallas defence, improving from barely three yards a rush last week to more than 4.5 yards per rush against the Cowboys.

"They move fast. We just had to rush at them," Davis said. "That's what we wanted to do and the game plan worked to perfection."



Malaysia's Sefian Hanafiah (R) tries to block a kick by a Myanmar player during their elimination sepak takraw match at the SEA Games in Jakarta October 14, which Malaysia won 15-10, 15-7. Sepak takraw, unique to South East Asia, combines volleyball and soccer where the players use their feet and heads to put the ball over the volleyball-style net. (Reuters photo)

Samaranch pushes China to make new Olympic bid

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Olympic supremo Juan Antonio Samaranch on Tuesday made his most public appeal yet for China to make a new bid to stage the world's biggest sporting event.

Speaking on the sidelines of China's National Games in Shanghai, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president also said golf would not become an Olympic sport before 2008 and urged all federations to make two years the maximum ban for drugs offences.

China was beaten to the 2000 Games by Sydney and even this week Chinese officials expressed their displeasure, with Sports Minister Wu Shaoyu blaming "non-sports factors" for Australia's victory.

But the IOC has already said China has expressed an interest in the 2008 Games, with Beijing and Shanghai as the likely candidates.

Samaranch said China should apply again, the official Xinhua news agency reported. "Today, I'm sure, as President of IOC, that China has the ability to present an excellent Games to the world," he said.

"We are very interested in the People's Republic of China's efforts to promote high-level sports competition and at the same time promote sports education for the people," he added.

The IOC leader met President Jiang Zemin and a host of other sports leaders.

Samaranch, a supporter of Beijing's candidacy for 2000, was understood to have urged a new Chinese campaign.

Chinese sports officials have said no decision on a bid would be taken until after the National Games on October 24. But other cities have also expressed interest. The southern metropolis of Guangzhou has said it could host the 2008 Games with Hong Kong and Macau.

An election will probably be held to choose a candidate city.

Golf could make its Olympic comeback in China, if it wins the 2008 Games. Samaranch said golf, which was an Olympic sport at the start of the century, would not return for at least another decade even though attempts were made to get it included in Atlanta last year.

"We're talking with international golf organizations but golf will not be in the Games before 2008," he said.

The IOC chief added that all the best professional athletes were wanted in the Olympics "if they respect the Olympic Charter."

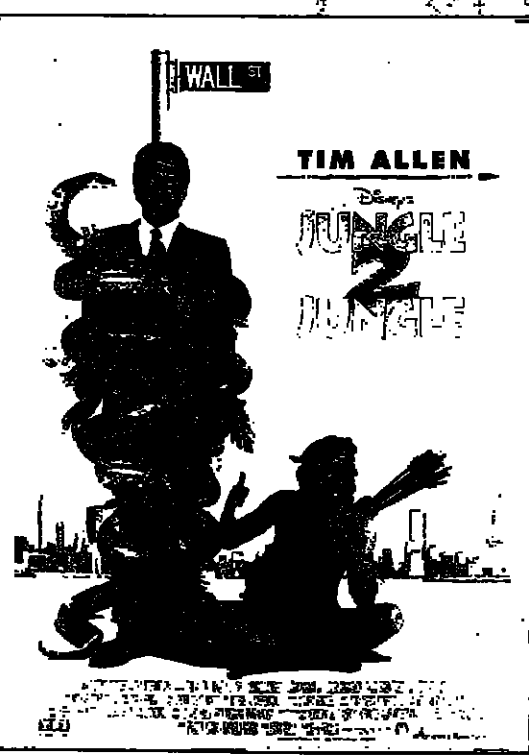
Samaranch came out in support of the International Amateur Athletic Federation decision to reduce from four to two years the ban for drug cheats.

He said: "It was a good decision. The punishment must be the same in all international federations. I think two years is enough."

Movies

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Swimming federation to implement 3-year plan for national team

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Swimming Federation has set a plan for the national team in preparation for major upcoming events, namely the Sydney Olympic games in 2000 and the 9th Pan-Arab Games in Jordan in 2001, JSF secretary Tala'at Nasser Tuesday told the Jordan Times.

"The team will be exposed to a three-year-long training schedule during which ten swimmers will dedicate themselves to the team," he said.

The plan which is considered the first to be implemented to a national team will include the best swimmers in the Kingdom.

"We have asked the committee to name the swimmers, and until now we have six of the best," he added.

The national team includes five girls and five boys.

"We have Rania Ghosheh, Hana Majaj and Hiba Nasser for the girls team, and Loay Haqqi, Fares Nasser and Ala'a Wazani for the boys," said Nasser.

The team will undergo a strict training

regimen which includes fitness, food and swimming.

"We will discuss the plan with the parents so we can have full commitment to the programme," he pointed out.

Nasser said the federation is studying the possibility of recruiting a new coach from an Asian country.

"Probably a coach from China will take over the mission of training the team," he said.

"We have high hopes in this plan and in our swimmers who took advanced places in several competitions."

Jordan's Hana Majaj took the bronze medal in the last Pan-Arab Games which took place in Lebanon in July.

Concerning the new swimming pool, the JSF secretary said that the federation is studying the final blueprints of the project to have an Olympic-size swimming pool.

"We still need time to calculate the cost and the financial support we need to finish the project," he said.

Like many federations, the JSF is facing some financial problems which led them to cancel participation in the South West Asian Games in Tehran (see separate story).

Top 4 sports federations decline participation in S. West Asian Games

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four of the country's most successful sports federations — basketball, table tennis, boxing and fencing — have declined participation in the upcoming South West Asian Games which will be held in Tehran, Iran Nov. 19-28.

At a meeting with the Jordan Olympic Committee's technical committee attended by JOC Vice-Chairman Mouaffaq Fawwaz and Secretary-General Ismat Kurdi, eight federations confirmed participation. They are: Gymnastics, athletics, wrestling, shooting, badminton, equestrian, tennis, handball while cycling was still undecided.

The JOC will this week finalise discussions about the nature of the Kingdom's participation in the event, open to men's teams only.

The Iranian Olympic Committee has offered to cover accommodation leaving only air-fare to be paid by the respective participating federations.

However, that is the reason cash-strapped federations have shied away, with their budget's unable to cover the expenses needed having not yet paid their 40 per cent in expenses at

the Pan-Arab Games which were held in Beirut in July. The JOC itself is still JD 50,000 short of covering the over JD 100,000 incurred cost.

Jordan gained more gold medals in Beirut than in the past 7 Pan-Arab Games altogether, capping the best Jordanian participation to date since the event was first held in 1953.

Jordan took a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals, in the two-week-long event.

The Kingdom finished fifth among the 19 participating countries compared to 9th overall in the 1992 Games in Syria where Jordan earned only 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The JOC announced that excellent athletes and medals winners would be sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Youth or the JOC.

Onlookers have criticised the JOC for asking the over-burdened federations to cover expenses when their annual budgets do not correspond to their expenses — a fact that leads many excellent federations to miss participation.

The four declining federations all had either impressive results at the Pan-Arab Games or are considered to have good teams that should be best prepared for the 9th Pan-Arab Games

in 2001 which will be held in Jordan.

The boxers won five medals, fencing also earned a bronze medal and table tennis took two bronze in both the doubles and the team event.

While basketball failed to earn a medal, Jordan has regrouped a new lineup of young stars who finished 6th in Lebanon and 7th in the recently-concluded Asian championship. Jordan was Arab champion in the 1985 Pan-Arab Games.

On the other hand, only two of the federations participating in the Tehran Games were impressive in Beirut with athletics and weightlifting earning five medals each.

In shooting, Jordan was eliminated from the top six qualifying positions and the equestrian team failed in the Grand Prix and finished at a disappointing 7th place among 8 competing teams in the team event.

Gymnastics, badminton, tennis and handball did not take part in Beirut and their competitive form is relatively unknown.

Paris-bound Bulls fall without two stars

CHICAGO (AFP) — Reigning National Basketball Association champion Chicago left here Monday night for the world club championship in Paris with a bad omen, losing 84-83 to NBA rival Atlanta.

Anthony Miller's free throw with three seconds remaining gave the Hawks a triumph after the Bulls evened the game at 83 on a free throw by Bill Wennington with eight seconds to play.

Toni Kukoc fouled Miller, who missed the first free throw but made the second for Atlanta, 3-0 in NBA exhibition play. Michael Jordan had a game-high 15 points for the Bulls, now 1-2.

After the game, the Bulls departed by plane to France for the global event against Greece's Olympiakos Piraeus, PSG Racing of France, Italy's Treviso, Barcelona of Spain and Argentina's Atenas of Cordoba.

NBA clubs have won seven titles in a row and all 14 games they have played at the tournament, but the Bulls enter without Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, increasing the pressure on superstar Jordan.

"The biggest thing is the NBA has never lost," Jackson said. "That puts a big onus on the NBA teams that go over there, especially with European teams practicing since August. They have a two-month head start. They're ready to play."

The event also worries Jackson somewhat because Pippen is sidelined by foot surgery for up to three months and Dennis Rodman has agreed to contract terms but not signed a contract.

Jackson especially laments the absence of Rodman, who has agreed to terms but has yet to sign a contract.

Raising his game a notch to offset Rodman's absence

is Australian center Luc Longley, who has played well in three exhibition games.

Jordan will be the main Paris attraction on a Bulls team that has won five titles in seven years but looks to break apart after the coming season, which opens October 31.

Bulls' owners have said they will not retain Jackson after this year. Jordan has vowed to play for no other coach and the Bulls have made it clear they consider Pippen expendable.

Jackson warns that he is likely not to be coaching an NBA club next season and he believes Jordan is serious about leaving the game, although he admits he would try to talk Jordan out of leaving just because he does.

"I appreciate his loyalty. I believe he is sincere," Jackson said. "I have told him I don't want him to limit his career if I quit or resign from the Bulls."

"He doesn't want to go into a new system or deal with new players. He's doing it for fun and to win another championship. To be there to change or rebuild a dynasty into another one is not what he wants."

"I encourage him if he thinks he has anything in his tank to keep going and play the game so many people love to see him play."

Kansas University coach Roy Williams, who recruited Michael Jordan to the University of North Carolina, denies he is a candidate to replace Phil Jackson as coach of the Bulls next year.

But Williams and Jordan spoke twice after an exhibition in Kansas on Saturday and Williams has been a frequent visitor to Bulls' practices in past years.

Jordan has said he would not play for anyone other than Jackson, but a long-time friend like Williams might be enough to make the NBA legend reconsider.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

United bid \$20 million for Salas

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — English champions Manchester United have bid \$20 million for Argentine champions River Plate's Chilean striker Jose Marcelo "Matador" Salas, it was reported here Thursday. Manchester assistant manager Brian Kidd was in Santiago last Sunday to watch Salas score a hat-trick for Chile in their World Cup qualifier against Peru, Buenos Aires newspapers said.

Francis adds to Spurs injury woe

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham's injury crisis took a twist on Monday when manager Gerry Francis was forced to add yet another name to the long list of casualties at the English Premiership club — his own. Under-fire Francis, whose side have managed only two League wins all season and none in the last six games, injured his back at the weekend when playing with his children at home. He went to hospital on Monday for an X-ray and is rated very doubtful to make an appearance for Wednesday's League Cup tie with Derby.

Italian fan blinded in one eye

ROME (AFP) — An Italian fan has lost the sight in one eye after being hit in the face with a bottle by an England fan before Saturday night's World Cup qualifier, it emerged on Monday. Alberto Mu, 24, was attacked by a group of England fans in the early hours of Saturday morning. Mu, who is married with a young daughter, underwent surgery for his injuries, but has lost the sight in his left eye. Mu said he, his sister and some friends had left a nightclub in central Rome and realised, as they made their way to their cars, that he was out of cigarettes. He headed to a nearby tobacconist but came up against a group of four drunken England fans who began abusing him and then attacked him, one of them hitting him in the face with the bottle. British ministers, including premier Tony Blair, have criticised the Italian authorities for their handling of the match.

Villeneuve appeal date set

PARIS (AFP) — Current Formula One leader Jacques Villeneuve's appeal against his disqualification from the Japanese Grand Prix will be heard on October 21 FIA, the sport's governing body, said here on Monday. The 26-year-old Canadian, who was allowed to race in the Grand Prix despite being disqualified for violating yellow-flag rules in Saturday's free practice session, had his appeal lodged by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) on behalf of the Williams team, for whom he drives. Villeneuve, son of the late Ferrari driver Gilles, currently leads dual world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany by one point — 79 to 78. Should he lose his appeal, forfeiting the two points he earned for fifth place on Sunday, he would trail the German by one point going into October 26 final Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain.

Orioles stay alive in playoffs

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Baltimore nearly squandered a four-run lead with one inning to play but avoided elimination from the American League championship series with a 4-2 victory over Cleveland here Monday.

The triumph pulled the Orioles within three games to two in the best-of-seven series with game six scheduled for Baltimore on Wednesday. The Orioles must win to force a seventh game on Thursday.

"This was a great win," Orioles' third baseman Cal Ripken said. "We feel pretty confident going home."

Baltimore pulled ahead 4-0 in the ninth inning when pinch-hitter Eric Davis, taking chemotherapy treatment for colon cancer, belted a home run that proved to be the winning run.

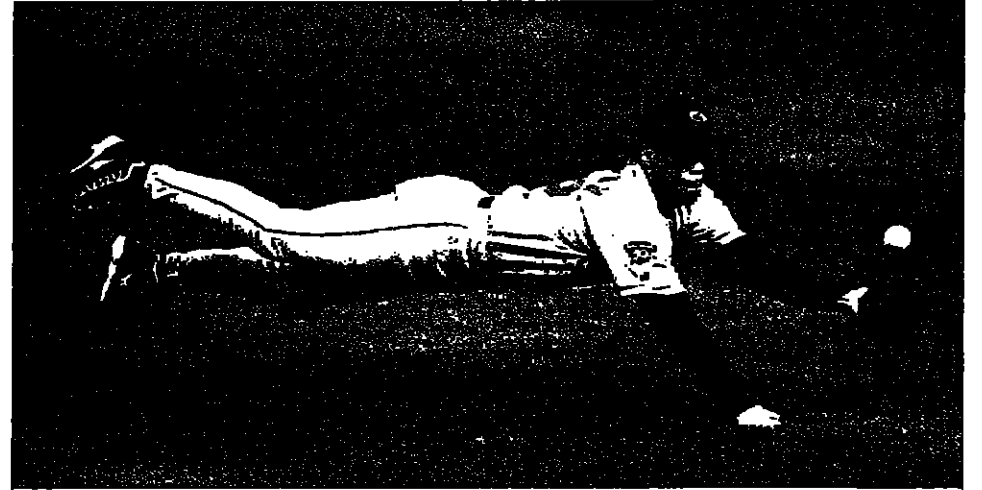
Cuban-born Rafael Palmeiro doubled and scored on Ripken's single to provide the Orioles their final run.

The Orioles had lost their four previous playoff games when facing elimination, dating back to the 1973 American League playoffs, but won here to sustain hopes of reaching their first World Series since 1983.

"We don't have any pressure," Davis said. "Our main goal was to get it back home. We still have two to win."

Davis, who missed 3 1/2 months after being diagnosed with cancer in June, rated the homer one of the three greatest in his career. He has another treatment scheduled for Friday.

"Hopefully I will have to



Baltimore Orioles' second baseman Roberto Alomar dives but misses a hit by Cleveland Indians' Brian Giles in the fourth inning of game five of the American League Championship series at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. (Reuters photo)

do it before the World Series," he said.

The homer was only the second pinch-hit homer by Baltimore this year, the first since Jeff Reboulet hit one at Detroit on July 6.

The Indians refused to quit, slugging away at Orioles' closing relief pitcher Randy Myers, who led the major leagues in finishing off opponents this season but struggled to send down Cleveland.

"Randy doesn't like to do anything easy," Davis joked.

David Justice singled to right field and scored on a double by Matt Williams, who came home to pull Cleveland within 4-2 when Tony Fernandez slapped a one-out double to left field.

Marquis Grissom, who won game two with a homer and game three by racing home on a passed ball, slapped a ground ball off the glove of pitcher Myers for a single that advanced Fernandez to third base.

Myers struck out Bip Roberts for the second out but Grissom stole second base on the final swing, putting two runners in scoring position for Venezuela's Omar Vizquel.

A single could have equalized the game, but Vizquel hit a ground out to Roberto Alomar to end the game.

"This team has felt loose and confident in every game," said Baltimore manager Davey Johnson, whose club has lost on a controversial call and two poor showings by typically reliable reliever Armando Benitez.

In Major League Baseball history, 41 of 49 teams have won when leading 3-1 in a best-of-seven series, although the Indians entered as the underdog after having the worst record of any AL playoff club.

"As crazy as this series has been, I don't see how anybody could take comfort going back to Baltimore," Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove said.

Mike Mussina, the Orioles' top pitcher, will start game six against Cleveland's Charles Nagy. Scott Erickson will throw his third game of the series for the Orioles in game seven if needed against Orel Hershisier.

The Baltimore-Cleveland winner will face the National League champion in the World Series starting Saturday. Florida leads Atlanta 3-2 in that best-of-seven matchup with game six in Atlanta on Tuesday.

Geronimo Berroa singled home Chris Hoiles

and Brady Anderson in the third inning to put the Orioles ahead 2-0.

Relief pitcher Jimmy Key, who struggled through four difficult innings as a starter in game two, hurled three shutout innings in relief.

"To come in and contribute to a win after basically being taken out of the starting rotation was very important for me," said Key, the man who won last year's final World Series game for the New York Yankees.

Cleveland's Chad Ogea suffered the loss.

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Australia gearing up for 75,000 crowd for World Cup play-off

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australian football officials are hoping for a record 75,000 crowd for Australia's World Cup play-off against an Asian nation here late next month.

Tickets went on sale Tuesday and 12,000 tickets were snapped up in the opening few hours for the Melbourne Cricket Ground decider on November 29.

Soccer Australia (SA), who lost heavily financially in Australia's Oceania region play-offs in June, intend splashing out on an advertising campaign featuring their expensive English manager Terry Venables.

"Football... Aussie Rules, don't they?" says Venables in the advert.

Venables and his unbeaten Socceroos have raised the profile of the national team so much that SA was prepared to gamble on moving the game from its traditional big-game venue in Sydney to Melbourne.

The Victorian state government also took the plunge, underwriting a guaranteed crowd of 62,000 to switch the game to the MCG, where 90,000 fans watched this year's Australia-New Zealand Bledisloe Cup rugby international.

SA official Stefan Kamasz said early signs were better than anticipated before the onset of the advertising campaign.

"As each day goes by the feedback we are getting is more encouraging and I think we could exceed 75,000 to 80,000 — some people are already talking about a sell-out," he said of the 100,000-capacity arena.

Australia will play off for a place at next June's World Cup finals against the fourth-placed team in the Asian qualifying series.

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WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANIAH HIRSH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

A10652 VK1052 064d +Q8783

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

10 Pass 10 Pass

2c Pass 2c Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

A32 0A3833 0A3102 4A4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 10 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

A104 097822 -0A95 4A47

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

10 10 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

A48 0AKJ75 0Q1083 4Q5

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

10 Pass 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

A85 0A376 0A 4A4Q6643

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club.

What action do you take?

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AA3 085 0Q3105 4AKQJ5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?



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Chairman

Polish government sparks row over Israeli arms deal

WARSAW (AFP) — Poland has agreed to buy Israeli anti-tank missiles in a deal worth close to a billion dollars. Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati announced Tuesday, sparking a row with the incoming Solidarity-led government.

The deal, one of the last made by the outgoing former-communist government, is conditional on the missiles being successfully test-fired in Poland, Mr. Rosati said, and is subject to government ratification.

But Marian Krzaklewski, whose Solidarity Election Action (AWS) party swept to victory in the Sept. 21 general election, denounced the deal as invalid Tuesday.

"It's irresponsible, we have demanded that no important contracts be signed before the formation of the new government. It offends all those who have elected the new parliament," Mr. Krzaklewski added.

The party's vice-president Janusz Tomaszewski said the deal would be subjected to "a detailed analysis to know if the Israeli missiles are the best choice for the Polish army and the arms industry."

He said it would also jeopardise Poland's entry into NATO, agreed at the last NATO summit in July.

AWS is the largest party in Poland following last month's elections, when it defeated the ruling former communist Democratic Left Alliance. But it needs the backing of smaller parties such as UW, which finished in third place, to form a majority in parliament.

The 5,000 missiles, which can be attached to the Polish-

made Huzar attack helicopter, will be assembled at factories in Poland, saving off job losses at two of Poland's major armaments companies, Mesko and PZL.

"The accord was signed by the Economics Minister [Wieslaw Kaczmarek] and must still be ratified by the government, a task we will leave for the new cabinet," said the outgoing Prime Minister Włodzisław Cimoszewicz.

The U.S. had pressured Warsaw to buy local, arguing that Poland, as a new NATO member, should buy its military hardware from one of its alliance partners.

U.S. company Rockwell's offer to manufacture its Hellfire missiles in Poland was made too late to affect the outcome of the negotiations with the Israelis.

Orthodox say unless Netanyahu blocks recognition of other sects, they will bring down government

TEL AVIV (AP) — Orthodox legislators said Tuesday they will bring down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government unless he gets legislation passed by November that will block recognition of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

The ultimatum came after the government's effort of the past few months to find a compromise failed.

At the core of the dispute is the fight over control of religion in Israel. The Orthodox have a monopoly, but the reform and conservative movements, which are prevalent in the U.S. have been seeking a greater role in Israel.

The religious establishment's ultimatum was to be delivered Tuesday afternoon in a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and six Orthodox lawmakers, said Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party. The three Orthodox parties have 23 legislators in Mr. Netanyahu's 66-member coalition and can easily bring it down.

However, if Mr. Netanyahu consents and rams the legislation through parliament, he will risk splitting world Jewry and alienating American Jews, including some of his most powerful supporters.

If the bills are passed, "it will give us a gut feeling of insult and rejection," said Uri Regev, head of the reform movement in Israel. "The Jewish people are at a crossroads."

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said the prime minister would try to persuade the Orthodox legislators in the meeting not to close the door to negotiations.

However, Mr. Yahalom said any compromise proposals made by a government-appointed committee headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, an observant Jew, were unacceptable.

The committee has not completed its work, but some of the emerging proposals have been leaked, alarming the chief rabbis and Orthodox politicians who held an emergency meeting Monday.

One of the disputes deals with conversions to Judaism performed in Israel. The Orthodox want legislation passed that would encode the current practice of recognising only Orthodox conversion performed in Israel. The Neeman Committee reportedly proposed establishing a Conversions Institute with representatives from the three streams.

The committee also considered the possibility of having reform and conservative rabbis perform weddings in Israel in the presence of a supervisor from the chief rabinate. Until now, weddings and divorces have been strictly the domain of the Orthodox.

Mr. Yahalom said that in light of what the committee is proposing, the Orthodox are now determined to get the conversions bill passed in parliament without further delay.

A second bill — which has yet to be submitted — would bar reform and conservative candidates from being seated on local religious councils.

Lebanon truce committee meets

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring the ceasefire agreement in south Lebanon met Tuesday to discuss a complaint filed by Israel over an alleged truce violation last week.

The five-nation panel convened at 11:05 a.m. at the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping force in the town of Naqoura near the Israeli border, a source

close to the Lebanese delegation said.

Israel lodged a complaint with the committee after mortar shells fired into the village of Majdal Selm Oct. 8 in the self-declared Israeli security zone in south Lebanon injured a Lebanese civilian.

Israel accused Hizbollah, which spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of southern Lebanon, of carrying out the attack.

Under their 1996 ceasefire agreement, Israel and Hizbollah are supposed to avoid targeting civilians and refrain from launching attacks from civilian areas.

The truce committee, comprised of representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the U.S., was set up to monitor compliance with the agreement.

Attacker in museum massacre says he was after Jews

CAIRO (AP) — A former insane asylum inmate on Tuesday went on trial for killing nine German tourists last month, saying he meant to attack Jews and was ready to "kill even a hundred, or even two hundred" of them.

Saber Abu Al Ulla told reporters before a court hearing that he carried out the attack to avenge a cartoon drawn by an Israeli-Jewish woman earlier this year, depicting Prophet Muhammad as a pig.

"I wish I could have gotten to her," Abu Al Ulla said, speaking from behind a steel cage inside the courtroom. The comments were his first public admission of guilt.

He and his brother, Mahmoud, are charged with premeditated murder in the shooting and firebombing of a tourist bus on Sept. 18 in a brazen attack outside the Egyptian Museum, which houses some of the world's greatest pharaonic treasures.

The government has denied that the attack was linked to Islamist groups, which have been waging an insurgency since 1992 to topple President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with Islamist rule. The prosecution says the two brothers acted alone. Seven men who sold them arms and ammunition or acted as middlemen for purchasing the arms have been named co-defendants and are facing trial along with the brothers.

Air games harm Cypriot peace talks, say diplomats

NICOSIA (R) — Cat-and-mouse air games between Greek and Turkish warplanes over Cyprus on Sunday and Monday have soured peace efforts on the divided island, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Athens charged Turkey of mass violations of its airspace on Sunday and Monday, culminating in the harassment of a C-130 Hercules transport carrier bringing its Defence Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos to the island on Monday afternoon.

Greek fighter jets intercepted the Turkish planes, Athens said. Ankara denied the claims.

"This is a setback. Things have been looking pretty grim since the summer and this is just another example of how Cyprus gets sucked into problems between the respective motherlands," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

"A show of muscle by either side is not compatible with the peace efforts," another diplomat close to the peace talks said.

Greece said on Tuesday it would lodge a protest with Turkey over the alleged air space violations.

Greece and Turkey, NATO partners but bitter adversaries at odds for decades over the division of Cyprus, are guarantor powers of the island's sovereignty with former colonial power Britain under 1960 independence treaties.

International mediators stepped up efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue this year amid increased tensions as both sides beefed up their defences following a series of deaths on the ceasefire line separating the island's Greeks and Turks in 1996.

Turkey, which has 30,000 troops stationed in north Cyprus, has also warned it will block the deployment of a Russian surface-to-air missile system the Greek Cypriots have ordered for delivery in autumn 1998.

"I think things should calm down pretty soon. The Americans are after some kind of positive mood in Crete next month," said the diplomat.

50 bus passengers killed in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Islamists cut the throats of between 33 and more than 50 bus passengers at a fake roadblock near a town in western Algeria, Algerian newspapers said on Tuesday.

The attack, near Sig town, 330 km west of Algiers, was the worst single massacre in the roan region which has largely been spared the violence that erupted nearly six years ago.

La Tribune newspaper put the toll in the attack overnight Sunday-Monday at more than 50 and said among the victims were many children and women. Another 15 passengers were wounded, shot as they tried to flee, with another 20 motorists wounded as the rebels opened fire at random at passing cars.

Liberte said 43 bus passengers, all of them aged below 30, and travelling in two buses were killed. Al Watan said 33 people died.

According to Liberte the victims were mainly "tribe-bondists" or smugglers heading for the Algeria-Morocco frontier town of Zouia, near Maghnia, to pick up goods.

It said 30 "terrorists" were involved in the attack which lasted two hours from Sunday midnight until 2 a.m. Monday.

Shortly before the bus attack, an ambulance was stopped on the same road. A nurse, midwife and the driver had their throats cut, La Tribune said.

Liberte said that in the attack on the ambulance, the driver managed to flee but four women were killed.

Algerian judge murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian judge has been shot dead in a town near the major industrial city of Annaba in eastern Algeria as he left for work, the Liberte and Al Khabar dailies reported Tuesday. Unidentified gunmen shot the unnamed judge in the chest several times after blowing up a bomb in front of his car on Sunday. His brother was hurt in the attack, the papers said. More than 20 judges have been assassinated by Islamists at war with the army-backed secular regime since 1992, but such killings had ceased more than a year ago.

Freak buffalo born in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — A buffalo with two heads, two tails and seven feet was born in the northern Egyptian province of Daqahliya, the government newspaper Al Ahran reported on Tuesday. "Such births are very rare and occur only once every 500,000 million," Al Ahran quoted experts as saying.

Daqahliya veterinarian Abdul Ghani Ibrahim, who assisted the creature's birth, said the mother must have grazed on grass heavily treated with insecticides or been given drugs.

66-year-old Israeli caught cheating on driver's licence exam

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli court jailed a 66-year-old man for cheating on his driving theory test, a newspaper reported Monday. "I don't understand what is so serious about what I did," David Yizraelov, 66, told Yediot Ahronot after a Tel Aviv court rejected his appeal of a year and a half sentence Sunday. Yizraelov's licence was revoked after a series of violations 20 years ago. A recent effort to renew it yielded only heartache: He failed the theory exam five times. On the sixth try, he arrived armed with a pen with the answers written on it — and was caught.

Jagger's sore-throat hinders MTV premiere

NEW YORK (AP) — Mick Jagger's sore throat forced the Rolling Stones to cancel their Tuesday appearance on MTV — and left network executives with no concert a day before the premiere of a new weekly live concert programme. Spokeswoman Andrea Smith said that David Bowie was quickly enlisted as a fill-in on "live from the 10-spot. There's a risk in presenting a weekly live music series, but MTV is committed to and excited about taking that risk."

Karloff was not a special effects buff

NEW YORK (AP) — Boris Karloff wouldn't much like contemporary horror movies, his daughter says. In fact, "he'd be horrified." The star of the '30s classics "Frankenstein" and "The Mummy" didn't like monster movies that were too explicit. Sara Karloff said Sunday at a retrospective of her father's work at the American Museum of the Moving Image. The trend toward "competitions between special-effects artists," as Karloff described today's horror films, was already under way when her father died in 1969. "He felt the real shame about them was they left so little to the imagination of the viewer," she said.

Showgirls writer focusing on emotions instead of sensuality

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Eszterhas, who wrote "Showgirls" and "Basic Instinct," is focusing on feelings other than sexual in his latest film. The screenwriter went back to his childhood in Cleveland for "Telling Lies in America," he told the New York Times for Sunday's edition. The main character is a young Hungarian immigrant in the 1960s and the plot is based on the bribes paid to radio disk jockeys during the early rock 'n' roll years. "The characterisation of the boy is certainly taken from a kind of insecurity and awkwardness and feelings of inferiority that I had growing up as an immigrant," he said. "I like the gentle comedic aspects... Maybe the older I get, the more I like the notion of making people smile and laugh."

Instead of promoting their ideas, candidates are having to promote participation

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

NAZZAL — Increasing economic hardships and decreasing living standards are more likely to keep many voters away from the polls than the Muslim Brotherhood's call for a general boycott, residents in Amman's First and Second Districts say.

In these underprivileged and densely populated areas in eastern Amman, home to many Palestinian refugees and returnees from the Gulf, people express frustration at inadequate infrastructure and mounting unemployment.

Much more than their neighbours in the affluent Third District, across from Wadi Abdoun, residents in the First and Second Districts feel they are paying the price of economic reforms and last year's lifting of state subsidies on many commodities.

Voicing their disappointment for what they consider the unfulfilled promises of the deputies in the 1989 and 1993 Parliaments, they seem to be growing more and more apathetic towards politics.

According to the Ministry of Interior, around 140,000 and 130,000 voters are registered in the First and Second District, respectively.

However, people are largely deserting the colourful tents that candidates have set up to offer coffee and sweets in a bid to lure voters, and all those interviewed by the Jordan Times said they did not collect their voting cards and did not even know anybody who had.

"I voted in 1989 and in 1993, but what did [the former deputies in the 11th and 12th Parliaments] do for the people?" asked one shopkeeper in the Nazzal market.

"The prices of bread, sugar, milk, and electricity went up," complained the owner of a small stationery shop next door.

"They promised health centres and schools, and we never saw any of [their promises materialise]. Now they are promising the same things, but why should we believe them again?" asked one woman.

Many of the residents here supported the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), in the last elections.

In both districts, the IAF won two of the three allocated seats. Former First District IAF Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber and Theeb Abdullah obtained around 12,000 votes collectively.

Former Second District IAF Deputy Abdul Mun'ir Abu Zant and Haruz Mansour won around 18,000 votes between them.

Notwithstanding the support the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF have traditionally enjoyed in these districts, many people said it is not because of the Islamists' call for a general boycott that they intend to desert the Nov. 4 polls, but rather because of their overall disappointment with the IAF performance in previous parliaments.

"I tried the IAF twice, and I would not have voted for them a third time even if they were running," said one eligible voter in the First District, echoing many similar comments.

Regardless of the way their previous deputies voted in Parliaments (IAF deputies voted en masse against the peace treaty with Israel and boycotted the voting on the lifting of bread subsidies), many former IAF supporters here accuse their representatives of simply not having done enough.

Some of the 38 candidates running in both districts (22 in the First and 16 in the Second District), however, fear that the Islamists could still have a profound influence on voters.

Rather than promoting their ideas, they are consistently finding that they have to promote the basic principle of participation instead.

The banners of Abdul Majeed Aqash, a former independent Islamist deputy from Madaba, who is running in the Second District, state "Religion and Nationalism. Do not confuse them."

With the withdrawal of the IAF from the race, some observers believe independent Islamists in the First and Second Districts will benefit from the pockets of Islamist voters who will not abide by the boycott but still want to support an Islamist candidate.

Another independent Islamist, Theib Abdullah, running in the First District, told the Jordan Times he has not discarded the possibility that independent Islamist deputies in the future Parliament could at first join forces in a parliamentary bloc, and later explore the possibility of establishing a second Islamist party to challenge the monopoly of the IAF.

A former deputy in the 12th Parliament, Dr. Abdullah left the IAF in 1996 following disagreements with the front over the vote of confidence to the former government of Abdul Karim Kabariti.

"There is a possibility [of a new Islamist party], though it is a possibility that will take some time," he said.

One of the campaign aids of a "new face" in the Second District, Yacoub Kiswani, said the withdrawal of the Islamists from the race has given fresh candidates stronger chances of winning.

Independent observers, however, believe that the public's increasing frustration vis-a-vis economic hardships could paradoxically lead to the re-election of incumbent candidates.

"In a young democracy like ours, the people's discontent is more likely to translate into non-participation, rather than in a protest vote," noted a local analyst.

According to him, the possible desertion of the polls by those segments of voters who could express a "political" rather than a "tribal" vote could lead to the victory of those candidates who had already obtained enough tribal support in 1993.

In contrast to the highly politicised 1993 campaign, during which the IAF took its opposition to the then-nascent peace process to the streets, this year's candidates are mostly focusing on social issues and the needs of every-

day life.

"I promise my constituency to work for the implementation of the social safety net programme," said Hamad Abu Jammous, a former minister and a deputy in the former Parliament, running in the First District.

Aysha Khawaja Razem, the only woman candidate in the First District, said she will concentrate on issues which concern women and children including educational reforms.

According to another candidate, Fakhri Agrabawi (First District), creating job opportunities for the youth should be a deputy's priority.

Other deputies in the First District, such as Khalil Hussein Attyeh and Yousef Abdullah, are centering their campaigns mainly on the need to upgrade public services in the area, establish new schools, open new medical centres, and upgrade the facilities in the already-existing ones.

In the Second District, which includes the Hittin refugee camp together with the Yarmouk, Nasr, Ras Al 'Ain, and Badr areas, one candidate, Mohammad Wahsh, is especially focusing on returnees' rights and has displayed many banners uphold-

ing the right to compensation for those who lost their jobs as a result of the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

Other candidates in the First District include: Rashid Baraiseh, Hamadah Fara'neh, Ghaleb Dmour, Khalil Hussein Attyeh, Mohammed Artemah, Saleh Ali Ribal, Nahhar Artemeh, Mukhlis Odeh, Khaled Qanawi, Abdul Haleem Khalayleh, Ahmad Awaisheh, Salern Hidban, Zuheir Aza, Marwan Diri, and Fakher Kayyali.

The candidacies of Jamal Abu Yahia and Nayel Wada'an were rejected Monday by the administrative governor for falling short of the documentation requirements prescribed by the Elections Law.

These candidates are now entitled to appeal before the Court of First Instance within the next two days.

Other candidates running in Amman's Second District include: Ali Musa Zir, Mohammed Kouz, Khalil Hasaneh, Khalil Mar'i, Omar Hamdan, Mohammad Baraiseh, Da'ejah, Mohammad Abdul Razaq Mahasiri, Yousef 'Ajouri, Jasser Ma'ateh, Fathi Jaradat, Mohammad Yousef Mabidin, and Jamal Ma'alawani.



A security officer stops onlookers from entering the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima as bulldozers demolish the mansion, Tuesday. The Japanese government ordered the demolition of its bombed-out and gutted diplomatic residence in Peru, empty since the violent culmination there in April of Latin America's longest hostage crisis (Reuters photo)

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